

The Nation.

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The Week.

On Friday a protracted meeting was held in this city, at the Chamber of Commerce, of delegates from the American Freedmen's Aid Commission and the American Union Commission, which resulted in the adoption of a plan of union between the two bodies represented. A constitution has yet to be drafted, but the basis of the union is already agreed upon: No school or supply depot will receive the support of the Freedmen's Aid Association—the proposed style of the new organization—which makes any distinction of color among its beneficiaries. The consolidation of these two great charities in its most obvious aspect is a subject for general congratulation. There is a sufficiently common ground of sympathy for the victims of slavery both white and black, and a sufficient community of interest between the poor whites and the freedmen in striving each for their own elevation, to render it desirable to combine the benevolent efforts of the especial friends of each. The great charge that rests upon the whole people of repairing the waste of the system they tolerated so long, is now brought home in the simplest and most forcible manner. There is an end of distracting appeals for pecuniary aid, and of anxious enquiries concerning the most trustworthy channels through which to respond to them. Nor is this all. The real significance of the movement out of which the association arises consists in its educational purposes, which, though confined to the South in their practical direction, have a truly national bearing, and illustrate the growing conviction that intelligence must be the basis of democratic self-government. This is one of the valuable lessons of the war, and if it shall pass into a fundamental feature of our Constitution, the credit will be largely due to the spirit which has hitherto animated the various freedmen's associations, and which now finds its highest expression and widest scope in the union to which we have alluded.

THE manners of the bench and bar are rapidly improving. In the Strong divorce case the counsel wrangle like fishwomen, in language that would be considered foul in a bar-room, and the judge sits and listens in helpless degradation. One lawyer actually asked him to rule on a certain exception as a "husband and father," which is tantamount to asking him to be corrupt. In Washington, the other day, a lawyer in the Circuit Court called the judge a "liar and scoundrel," and when taken into custody for contempt, threatened to "thrash him." Now, if anybody wants to know the explanation of the tolerance for trials by courts-martial displayed by the public during the

last four years, he may find it, we are satisfied, in the growing want of confidence in the courts civil. The popular doubts of the efficiency and integrity of our tribunals are, unquestionably, on the increase, and are now so strong that people are easily reconciled to seeing justice done in any way that is swift and sure, however summary or extralegal. The great question is now—how long are we to let this feeling grow? That it will grow, and will seriously shake our whole political system unless we can discover some means of making our judges more self-respecting and respected, there is no question.

THE NATION has, since it came into existence, received a good deal of abuse from other journals, which has often been amusing, and almost always harmless, and we consequently do not mind it. But the practice of copying from our columns articles which have been prepared with care, and paid for highly, and publishing them without any indication of the source from which they come, in which many of our contemporaries have been indulging of late, is not simply a dishonest practice, but one very injurious to us, and we therefore respectfully request all journals that are conscious of being addicted to it to mend their ways. We are sorry to notice, too, that some of the worst offenders in this respect are those that were loudest in their complaints of the "heaviness" of THE NATION. Those who find its contents too heavy to read, ought at least to support their theory by not stealing them. We have borne this in silence for some time and have comforted ourselves by supposing that the aid we were rendering to human progress in the country districts, but patience has ceased to be a virtue. We shall, therefore, commence our remonstrances by requesting the *Missouri Democrat* to mention in its columns that the poem by Mr. Whittier, which it recently extracted from THE NATION without any acknowledgment, was a special contribution to this journal, and, being paid for by us, was our property. We shall also thank the *Cincinnati Daily Gazette*, from which we expected better morals, to explain in its next issue that the "Interesting Historical Episode," to which it devoted a solid column and a half on Friday last, is a carefully prepared review of Mr. Frederick Kapp's book on the "Hessians of the Revolution," which appeared in THE NATION two weeks ago, which the *Gazette* has "prigged" bodily, without saying where it found it; and has added insult to injury by falsely pretending to have "condensed" the article.

MR. HECKER is evidently in a bad humor over his defeat, and has administered his supporters a severe rebuke, and is apparently preparing a pamphlet in which he will more fully give vent to his feelings. At least, we presume that what he calls "his considerations of partizan and official corruption, and the vitiation of the exercise of the elective franchise, and destroying the life of our political institutions," would, if put into good English, mean a pamphlet.

THE *Tribune* made a display of enterprise last week, which we hardly know whether to praise or condemn, in publishing an obituary of Mr. Corwin before he was dead. It is customary in these cases to wait until a man is not only deemed past recovery, but is actually deceased—a usage which, aside from all sentiment, has a substantial basis in the large number of recoveries which have been known to take place after the doctors have given up hope. The energy of the *Tribune*, however, leads one to question the propriety of the rule. Why not write a "notice" of a man's performances whenever he falls dangerously ill? If he chooses to recover, the critique on his perform-

ances may not be pleasant reading; but then who is to blame for his recovery but himself?

THE *Evangelist* calls our attention to its long review—three solid columns—of Smith's "Dictionary of the Bible" as a proof that the religious weeklies are not open to the charge of carelessness in criticism which we recently brought against them. As far as we can judge, the critique in question seems to be a very able one, written by a man who understands his subject; but we put it to the *Evangelist*—Is it not a little "heavy"? Is it not an article which, according to the theory which the *Evangelist* recently propounded in the friendly advice which it offered THE NATION as to the propriety of being "lighter," ought only to have appeared in the "North American Review"? When its subscribers come home on Saturday night, with brows aching from the labors of the week, does it really expect them to sit down and read through such a mass of ponderous lore? In our opinion, in a weekly newspaper intended for popular circulation, even a "Dictionary of the Bible" ought to be noticed briefly, and with a light and delicate touch, and in "a genial spirit," and with enough wit to keep the reader, if not in a roar, at least beaming with smiles over the writer's happy, etc., etc.

COLONEL O'MAHONY, the head of the Union Square branch of the Fenian Brotherhood, has published a "financial statement," from which it appears that he received about \$100,000 for the month ending Oct. 10. What comes of this money he does not state, but probably most of it goes in payment for secret service. This revenue amounts to little over a million a year, if kept up every month, and would not quite keep one regiment on a war footing. The Brotherhood must really be more liberal, if they mean business.

THE *World* enumerates as the President's means of resistance to Congress, the command-in-chief of the army, the pardoning power, the veto, and the appointing power, all of which it seems to assume that he will exercise, if Congress should persist in keeping the South in its present limbo, and "if his will should prove equal to his authority." "If" is a very valuable word. The President might, also, if his will was equal to his authority, release all pirates, coiners, forgers of United States currency, and every other species of offender against United States laws. Everybody knows the extent of his power; it is about the bent of his will that the *World* would do well to furnish information.

GENERAL BUTLER is said to be preparing a reply to so much of General Grant's report as relates to him. We have little doubt that, no matter how completely Grant may beat him on the facts, he will beat Grant fearfully in letter-writing.

THE Committee of Congress appointed to make arrangements for commemorating the death of Mr. Lincoln have determined on celebrating his birthday, in February next, by an oration from Mr. Stanton. Mr. Stanton has every qualification for the task but one, and that is that he is a poor orator. He can be forcible enough, but when he attempts eloquence, and, above all, the eloquence of grace, or delicacy, he is certain to prove a failure. No man who is not, in the best sense of the word, silver-tongued, can do Mr. Lincoln's memory justice, and no man who has not great skill in marking shades of feeling and of thought can make even a tolerable sketch of his character. But this certainly is not Mr. Stanton's *forte*, to say the least. Still, he probably was in closer intercourse with Mr. Lincoln during the most trying periods of his career than anybody else, and this is something.

CAPTAIN CORBETT, of the *Shenandoah*, has been tried in Cork "for illegal enlistments." Most wonderful to relate, there was no proof against him, so he was acquitted. Upon the theory of what constitutes proof in these cases which has been developed by English lawyers and journalists, it is quite certain that no human means will ever prevent private persons in that country from carrying on war on their own

account if they please. Mr. Laird might, in fact, as far as the courts and police are concerned, rig out and maintain a fleet of buccaners.

THE Mayor of Washington has graciously consented that there shall be a special election in that city to decide the question of "colored suffrage." His Honor's course reminds us of the ingenious pleasantry of the Philadelphia horse-car corporations, when they appointed a day on which those who rode in their conveyances might vote whether those who were excluded should come in. The world, of course, gets on, always has got on, and always will get on, in just this fashion, by taking the sense of abuses and prejudices, and burying them only when they return a unanimous suffrage in favor of their own dissolution. Perhaps Mayor Wallach's election will not find grace at the Capitol.

THE correspondent of the London *Times* has been in the Shenandoah Valley, and the natives availed themselves of the opportunity to pour into his unsuspecting ear stories of Confederate exploits in that region which have had no parallels in military history. The only place we know of in which anything like them can be found is in the "Lives of the Saints."

THE President has encouraged the Georgians to have a Governor elect if they please, and has even intimated that if the election of a Senator would be any comfort to them, they may elect one. South Carolina, in the meantime, haggles over the repudiation of the State debt; and all are clearly determined to find out in some way what the exact point is to which they may push their pretensions.

THE President has set aside the new law of the Mississippi Legislature prohibiting freedmen from owning or leasing lands. This, we presume, was part of the code intended to keep "the negro down." A few more acts of this sort, if enforced, and enforced they would be, would certainly "keep them down" with a vengeance. If white men were deprived of the right of owning lands, of entering any profession, or acquiring any political rights, they, too, would rapidly come "down." It is said that this action of the President again raises the question—Where is Mississippi, in or out of the Union? That question, however, is clearly a metaphysical one. For all practical purposes Mississippi, and every other State which is not represented in Congress, is out of the Union, no matter what theory of their position may be held by anybody.

WHILE Virginia is arguing her continuous existence as a State throughout the rebellion, from the fact that she gave her indispensable consent to the partition of the western portion, her legislators amuse themselves with recalling that consent. This is another proof of the absurdity of confounding the Virginia of Gov. Peirpoint with the Virginia of Gen. Lee. The effort to recover the lost territory will be about as successful as that to replace a chicken in its shell.

WE do not know the precise age of a Kentucky conservative, and therefore will not be disrespectful to the Mr. Young who got resolutions printed last week in the Kentucky House, approving the action of the previous General Assembly in regard to the Constitutional Amendment. We cannot, however, accept his doctrine that this action was a finality, and that neither the present Assembly nor any subsequent one can so much as consider the subject again. States as well as men have the consolation that it is never too late to mend; and Mr. Young will find that his opinion will not deter New Jersey from backing out of her very disreputable association with the community which he represents.

JUDGE BUSTEED has come out second best in his controversy with Gen. Wood in the United States Circuit Court at Mobile. To his surprise, the President failed to support him in asserting the restored subordination of the military to the civil authority in Alabama. The magistrate was wise enough to decline contending with the Government, although protesting against what he chose to consider "an encroach-

ment of the Executive department of the Government upon one of its co-ordinate branches." No grand or petit jury will be empannelled during the present term of the court.

A GALVESTON paper, anticipating the State Convention, indulges in an etymological disquisition on the right word to be used in undoing the secession ordinance. It would not have "abolish" applied to an act which is still savory in the nostrils of many. "Repeal" is too suggestive of eating one's words to suit the unyielding spirit of chivalric Texans. On the whole, "annul" is freest from objection; for it implies a once existing reality, which alone can be reduced to nought, and so avoids the disagreeable acknowledgment that the ordinance was *ab initio* of no effect.

OREGON ratified the Constitutional Amendment on Monday, the 11th.

THE excitement in England about the Jamaica affair continues to increase, and has been aggravated by Governor Eyre's attack on the Baptist missionaries. There can hardly be any doubt that he will be recalled; if so, legal proceedings will probably be instituted against him for the murder of Gordon, for such it undoubtedly was. The affair is one of the most atrocious in English annals, and especially atrocious after the canting appeals for mercy for Davis, Forrest, & Co., with which the English press has been filled for the last six months.

M. DE LAMARTINE has lately written a surprising essay on the Mexican question, of which he declares that he alone understands the magnitude and sublimity. He approves the invasion because America belongs not to herself, but to Europe, and preferably to the Latin races of Europe; because it will be very profitable for France to have Mexico, and because it will prevent the United States from possessing her riches. He thinks us disqualified for destroying weak governments and civilizing helpless peoples at the point of the bayonet (the great offices of France), because we are very disagreeable people, speak monotonously, chew tobacco, put our feet on chimney-jambes, are proud, and have regular features. He suppresses, however, the real cause of our disqualification, which is to be found in our failure to subscribe for the support of a mendicant literary Frenchman long past poetry and usefulness.

A "LIFE OF JESUS," by the Abbé Michon, in reply to the books of Renan and Strauss, is announced in Paris. A valuable feature of the work will be a translation of the Evangelists, made directly from the Greek of the oldest and most authentic manuscripts.

M. BENJAMIN GUSTINEAU is about to publish a history of the subscription for striking a medal in honor of Abraham Lincoln. His book will be called "The Medal of Liberty," and will contain letters from Victor Hugo and Louis Blanc.

NOR men and cattle only seem to suffer from epidemics in these days. A pestilence has attacked even the poultry in France, and the hen-coops are (to use the strong language of the French journals) decimated by a disorder for which there is no apparent cause, and no cure known—except to eat the victims.

RECENTLY a sale of effects took place in the chateau of the Marquis de Villette, near Pont-Sainte-Maxence, where Voltaire lived so long. Some personal relics of the philosopher brought immense prices; the crown of gilt paper with which he was honored at the Théâtre Français sold for 440 francs; his satin waistcoat for 490; his dressing-gown for 990; his arm-chair for 2,000; his portrait, by Largillière, for 6,200.

THE speech of Victor Emanuel at the opening of the Italian Parliament was not of great significance. He congratulated the Houses on the almost universal recognition which the kingdom of Italy had received, and on the French evacuation of Rome; reminded them that they would have to deliberate upon the question of separating church

and state, and abolishing the religious corporations; and roused them to applause when, predicting a profound change in European affairs, he expressed the faith that if Italy must sustain new trials, her sons would rally around him to her succor.

CONGRESS.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10.

THE session of this week, though shortened by two days, permitted the exhibition of a great deal of legislative activity, as may be seen by referring to the diary below. The most important measures were the resolutions touching Mexico and the Monroe Doctrine, offered on Monday, in the Senate by Mr. Wade, in the House by Mr. Schenck; the admission, on Tuesday, on motion of Mr. Stevens, of the Tennessee delegation to seats upon the floor of the House, against the inclination and votes of such staunch Republicans as Boutwell and Washburne, of Massachusetts, Farnsworth, of Illinois, Schenck, of Ohio, and Wilson, of Iowa; the adoption of Mr. Farnsworth's resolution declaring that the colored soldier ought to vote, by the House, on Wednesday; Mr. Donnelly's excellent suggestion concerning a national bureau of education, on Thursday, and, on the same day, Mr. Wilson's successful restoration of that clause in Mr. Stevens's resolution on reconstruction which proved obnoxious to the Senate. Besides these salient acts and propositions, there was a great variety of projects for reaching the common aim of loyal men, through amendments to the Constitution, etc., etc. The material prosperity of the country was consulted by Mr. Wentworth's bill against the importation of cattle, by the resolution concerning the Pacific Railroad, the bill directed against railroad monopoly, and that which related to the Hudson River bridge at Albany. There was a vigorous contest over the usual motion to adjourn during the holidays, but the majority were undismayed by the prospect of summer heat and the cholera.

DIARY.

Monday, Dec. 11.—In the Senate, Mr. Sumner offered a bill to warrant and confirm the land titles of grantees under the field-orders of General Sherman, at Savannah, in 1865 (being the assignment to the freedmen of all the islands from Charleston south, and the abandoned rice-fields for thirty miles inland). Referred. Also, a bill to provide for payment of claims on account of French spoiliations. Referred. Mr. Brown offered a bill granting lands to aid in constructing a railroad and telegraph line to the Pacific, by the southern route. Referred. Mr. Stewart offered a bill to establish a mining bureau. Referred. Mr. Willey, a bill giving consent of Congress to the annexation of Berkeley and Jefferson counties, formerly of Virginia, to West Virginia. Referred. Mr. Wade offered a joint resolution that the attempt to establish a monarchy in Mexico by a foreign power is opposed to the declared policy of the United States Government, and offensive to our people, and that the President be requested to vindicate our policy and protect the honor and interests of our Government. Referred.

In the House, bills were offered for the reimbursement to loyal States of sums expended and debts contracted in aid of the war; to establish a uniform system of bankruptcy; giving bounty lands and money to United States soldiers; to facilitate postal and commercial communication between the States (i. e., to destroy New Jersey monopolies); to repeal that portion of the Confiscation Act which limits forfeiture of real estate to the lifetime of the offender; all of which were referred. A bill was passed prohibiting the future importation of cattle into the United States, with a view to prevent the spread of foreign diseases. Resolutions were offered and referred, proposing legislation for the protection and safety of travellers on railroads in the United States; declaring that the United States, as conquerors in war, now have the political power of the States late in rebellion; that said States have no title to take part in the general Government until Congress prescribes the terms, and that it is an indispensable condition of their recognition that their constitutions secure to all their inhabitants, of whatever color, equal rights before the law. Four propositions to amend the Constitution were offered and referred, as follows: that all male citizens of the United States of the age of twenty-one years, who can read, shall have the right to vote for officers of the federal Government; that all soldiers shall have the said right, and no person who cannot read the Constitution shall enjoy the right of suffrage; that it shall be the duty of each State to promote education, and secure life, liberty, and property to all its inhabitants without distinction; and that all national and State laws shall apply equally to every citizen.

Dec. 12.—In the Senate, Mr. Davis offered a resolution that the privilege of the writ of *habeas corpus*, by the operation of the Constitution, now stands rightfully restored in Kentucky, and throughout the whole of the United States. Referred. The Senate passed (ayes 33, nays 11) the resolution of the House, constituting a joint committee of fifteen to report upon the condition of the lately rebel States, and whether any of them are entitled to representation in Congress, after striking out the last clause, which declares that no member shall be received into either House, and no credentials received or debated, until the report of said committee. In the course of the debate, Senator Howard, of Michigan, held that the late Confederate States are simply conquered communities, having in them no rightful political power but that of the United States; that their people are not loyal, and neither branch of Congress can recognize them as entitled to representation in that body. Mr. Doolittle, of Wisconsin, argued that the resolution, as passed by the House, infringed the prerogative of the Senate to judge of the qualifications of its own members, limited the right of debate, was disrespectful to the President and his declared policy, and, if passed, was a resolution to

dissolve the Union by act of Congress.—A resolution was adopted, calling on the President for information of the state of that part of the Union lately in rebellion, including the reports of John Covode and Carl Schurz.

In the House, on motion of Mr. Raymond, a resolution was passed, yeas 126, nays 42, referring the credentials of the representatives elected from Tennessee to the joint committee of fifteen. A resolution passed, yeas 132, nays 35, inviting the Tennessee representatives to occupy seats on the floor of the House, without participating in its proceedings.

Dec. 13.—In the Senate, Mr. Stewart submitted a joint resolution to amend the Constitution with two articles affirming the Union to be indissoluble, and allegiance to it to be beyond the power of any State to absolve, and prohibiting State or national assumption of any debt incurred to impair or resist the national authority. Referred. Mr. Brown introduced a bill to reimburse Missouri for war expenditures. Referred. Mr. Guthrie presented a remonstrance from the Executive of Louisiana against the election of Messrs. Hahn and Cutler as senators from that State. Laid on the table. Mr. Foot offered a resolution providing for paying to the widow of the late Senator Collamer the amount due him at the time of his decease. Mr. Sherman reported from the committee on agriculture the House bill passed on Monday to prohibit the importation of cattle. Passed. Mr. Sumner called up the resolution asking for information concerning the employment of persons in the Treasury Department who have not taken the oath of allegiance. Passed, after amendment. Mr. Wilson called up the bill to maintain the freedom of the inhabitants of the States declared to be in insurrection and rebellion by the proclamation of July 1, 1862. It abrogates all laws enforcing an inequality of civil rights and immunities on account of race or color. The bill was opposed by Mr. Johnson, and objected to as premature by Senators Sherman and Trumbull. Pending the debate the Senate adjourned.

In the House, Mr. Schenck reported a joint resolution requesting the President to suspend the order mustering out the officers of the Veteran Reserve. Passed (yeas 111, nays 50). A joint resolution was also offered authorizing the entry for consumption of goods in bond, on payment of the respective rates of duty. Referred. Bills were introduced and referred providing for the subdivision and sale of the mining lands of the United States; and to extend the benefit of the Bounty Land Act of March 3, 1865, to all soldiers, sailors, and seamen who served during the war. On motion of Mr. Niblack, the committee on the judiciary was instructed to inquire into the expediency of providing by law for the adoption of the "eight-hour system" in all matters and places under Congressional jurisdiction. The committee in charge of the Pacific Railroad was instructed to enquire if any action is needed on the part of Congress to expedite the work. Mr. Stevens called up, and the House concurred in, the resolution providing for a joint committee on the condition of the so-called Confederate States, as amended by the Senate. Mr. Farnsworth's resolutions denying that to be a just government which deprives a large portion of its citizens, who bear its civil and military burdens, of a share in the government, and affirming that good faith and impartial justice demand that the colored soldiers of the Union obtain the equal rights of citizenship, while their exclusion and the readmission of rebels and traitors would be criminal, were referred, after an unsuccessful attempt (yeas 43, nays 113) to lay them on the table. On motion of Mr. Boutwell, the committee on the judiciary was instructed to consider and report whether compensation is due any of the inhabitants of the insurrectionary States for losses sustained during the war; and also the expediency of amending the Constitution so that no State shall make any distinction in the suffrage on account of race or color.

Dec. 14.—In the Senate, Mr. Brown offered a resolution on the adoption for Government employees of the "eight-hour system." Laid over. On motion of Mr. Harris, it was ordered that when the Senate adjourn it be till Monday, the 18th. The remainder of the session was occupied in eulogies on the late Senator Collamer, of Vermont.

The House (yeas 90, nays 67) voted to adjourn, the Senate concurring, from the 30th of December to the 9th of January. A bill was reported and passed appropriating \$30,000, or what should be necessary, to repair the President's House; also, one appropriating \$15,440,000 for the payment of invalid and other pensions. Bills were reported and referred making appropriations for the West Point Academy up to June 30, 1867; making the bridge now constructing across the Hudson at Albany a highway and postal route; authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to purchase a suitable site for a custom-house and warehouse in Jersey City; equalizing the bounty of soldiers. Mr. Henderson's resolution was unanimously adopted, that treason against the United States Government is a crime and ought to be punished. The joint committee on reconstruction was instructed to enquire into the expediency of establishing a national bureau of education, to enforce education without regard to race or color upon any population that falls below a certain standard. The committee on the judiciary was instructed to consider if the retrocession to Virginia of the District of Columbia south of the Potomac was not void and unconstitutional. Mr. Wilson offered as a resolution that part of Mr. Stevens's which the Senate had rejected—that all papers relating to the representation of the so-called Confederate States be laid on the table without debate, and no members be admitted till their title has been acknowledged by Congress. Passed (yeas 107, nays 56). The House adjourned after eulogies upon Senator Collamer.

THE FREEDMEN.

GEN. HOWARD'S report has been approved by the Secretary of War, and handed by him to the President; but up to the present writing its contents have been kept strictly private.

The constant reduction of hospitals for freedmen having been brought to the attention of Gen. Howard, he has ordered it to be stopped, and a sufficient number to be kept open at different points to provide for the large number of sick that will, probably, have to be cared for by the Bureau.

Gen. Fisk has been diligently at work in Tennessee and Kentucky to obtain homes for the freed people for the winter, and has been suc-

cessful to a great extent. Nearly all those who were dependants at the time of his appointment as Assistant Commissioner have been placed by him in good homes with fair wages. The exodus from the cities and towns has been large, and the general has been able, without neglecting to care for the aged, sick, and orphans, to break up nearly all of his "camps" and "homes." He states that the freed people in his district are becoming better advised as to their new relations, and that he has the greatest faith in their ability to "paddle their own canoe."

Gen. Swayne reports that he met the committee on finance of the Alabama Senate by appointment:

"They expressed a willingness to set on foot a legalized system of care for the poor blacks, and a degree of favor towards the cause of education among them which was gratifying to me, and which I hope to see reduced to a law within a week or two. . . . A good deal of spite and pandering to low public sentiment will have to find vent in the Legislature before there is much beneficial action; yet I am hopeful of the ultimate result."

Col. Osborne, of Florida, has been making a tour of the State, to his great satisfaction. He found the freed people mostly at work and generally fairly paid. A considerable portion of Florida has been under Federal rule for so long a time that blacks and whites have begun to understand their relative positions pretty well.

The restoration of the Sea Islands is still delayed. Wm. Whaley, of South Carolina, has been in Washington for some time endeavoring to hasten the work, but thus far without effect. The condition "mutually satisfactory" seems to be the chief impediment to any arrangement, and almost insuperable, since the freed people will be satisfied with nothing less than the land itself. This they have been accustomed to regard as their own ever since Gen. Sherman's order setting apart the islands for their use.

Col. Brown, of Virginia, reports about 11,500 colored pupils receiving instruction in that State from 195 teachers. Instances, he says, of personal violence are becoming rare on the part of the whites towards the blacks. The supply of laborers there is in excess of the demand, and would sustain an emigration of at least fifty thousand freedmen. Many are seeking homes and places that promise to be permanent. During the month of September an average of 9,196 rations was issued daily. There are eight freedmen's hospitals in the State, and fifteen medical officers.

Col. John Eaton, who has been Assistant Commissioner for the District of Columbia since the organization of the Bureau, has resigned his position in the army in order to become editor of a newspaper in Memphis. His official career has gratefully recommended him to the Government and the freed people.

Minor Topics.

A THRILL of the rapture which great cities, like children, feel at the approach of holidays may be supposed to communicate itself even to journalism; and if a newspaper babble of Christmas at a time like this, shall it be blamed because Christmas has been coming once a year, now, for above eighteen centuries? Consider, friends, what a life a newspaper's is: how it is for ever hearing or telling some new thing; how it has to do continually with affairs of to-day; how it must speak only of recent events, new people, new plays, new operas, new books; how weary it must get of the latest intelligence; and then forbid it, if you have the heart, to gossip a little about that of which it is utterly impossible for the newspaper to speak with its habitual freshness and originality. For, supposing that the newspaper should talk of Christmas in that fine, poetic strain characteristic of the best moods of journalism, would it not appear to trench upon feeling already occupied by Milton, and Tennyson, and the rest? Or if it should endeavor to present Christmas in the light of all that is plum-pudding, charity, roast-beef, holly, punch, and brotherly kindness in human nature, would it not presently be confronted with Charles Dickens? And as for the religious sentiment of Christmas, are there not innumerable pulpits which have long possessed the exclusive expression of that? We imagine that a man who had a new idea about Christmas would die of it—that the newspaper in which he printed it would be returned by all the subscribers. For what would a new idea of Christmas be like? We were on the point of telling.

But no new ideas for us, if you please. Indeed, we conceive that the very pleasure of Christmas time is in its likeness to all other Christmas times. There should be nothing novel about it; all should be familiar; and the past should come back in the repetition of old thoughts, words, and acts. Everything like change should be banished from association with it. Some gentle readers, no doubt, remember with what a pang they suffered the illusion of Santa Claus (or St. Nicholas, or Kriskringle, or however you may choose to call that first of the saints) to pass from them; and none would consent that fresh light should be thrown upon Christmas lest some other essential charm should be taken from it. Therefore, as we say, no new idea for us. Let us honor Christmas with world-old feelings of kindness and jollity, and let us say nothing which has not been said a thousand times before in much better language.

In those ancient lands beyond the sea how jealously they guard the observance of their Christmas from all strangeness; the English, with their plum-pudding and their holly; the Germans, with their Christmas-trees and papered candies and gilded nuts; the Italians, with their masses and odd presents of sweetened mustard and honey-sweetmeats! Their Christmas from year to year, and from cycle to cycle, knows no mutation. Yes, the instinct of this festive time is, everywhere, to hold fast by that which is old.

Even here, in this New World, where the Christmas festivity is itself a sort of novelty to more than half the land, how fondly we cling to the idea of its antiquity! We go up and down the streets, and look at the alluring windows of the shops, and are proud of such honor to the good old holiday, which we are every year learning to love more and more. We are quite willing to take our Christmas bodily from the Old World, and have a kindness both for the holly and the Christmas-tree. We buy Christmas presents, and give them about with a lavish hand; we like to see pictures of ideal Christmas in the illustrated papers; and we are fond of gaily dressed, expensive literature for the Christmas holidays. It all serves to make us believe that we have Christmas in our hearts, as, indeed, such of us as were born West or South really have. In the regions remote from the influences of New England, Christmas has always had joyous observance among us, the common happiness formerly seeking too often a rude expression in fire-crackers and turkey-rattles, but certainly being always a genuine feeling of jubilation, full of hospitable and genial impulses, and tending to great content and indignation.

* There was so little for any but sentimentalists to admire in Southern life, that one is loth to confess that Virginia had a social advantage of New England in honoring Christmas, but the fact is so. It is notable, moreover, that the children of the Pilgrims, who have departed from ancestral customs and beliefs in so many points, take kindly to Christmas as they find it away from home, though the grim Puritan traditions seem still to forbid them its enjoyments in New England.

Well, patience! Christmas shall be after awhile, perhaps, in the hearts of all. The Puritan spirit which abolished the jollity of this season shall for ever give tone to our national thought and morals, let us hope; but it cannot shape the national emotion in the present time or the future. The whole land has accepted Thanksgiving Day as a goodly and pleasant usage, but the elder festival is dear to us also, and both are not too many for our laborious year. We would have both holidays as "differently beautiful" in our calendar, and should be grieved to lose the younger of the twain, even to make the gain of Christmas. Thanksgiving may serve to express joyfully the sentiments of our more immediately American devotion, and in Christmas we may take delight as citizens of Christendom. We can then best recognize our kinship with all the world, and pass the bounds of nationality to embrace mankind, in the name of One born that holy day to bless the whole race. No sect, nor tongue, nor blood limits the spirit of the first Christmas time; but wherever men were good-willing on earth, it brought peace to them:

"Be united, O ye millions!"

utters the merry season to us now; and we would that we might accept its gospel in full and perfect love of Christmas.

THE troubles of the Fenian Brotherhood are only less mysterious than its purposes, as the Fenian Brotherhood explains them. This explanation varies, of course, from the generally received idea of Fenian troubles and purposes. To the mind of a public vitiated by the habit of considering causes and effects, as they develop themselves in facts, the cause of Ireland has seemed to be comprehended in the collection of large sums of money from many industrious Irish people, and the effect in the maintenance of a few lazy Irish people in a luxurious brown-stone house on Union Square. Generally speaking, no one has consented to accept a very large green flag, with a large golden harp on it, as evidence that the liberation of Ireland was taking place under the roof over which it floated; nor has a completely organized republican government in the brown-stone house, nor the parade of a troop of small boys in green-baize jackets before the door of this house, led the public to any other conclusion than that a hollow, greedy, and pompous humbug dwelt within. Indeed, the public would hardly have been more surprised to know that there was actually something going on there besides ostentatious swindling, than they have been at the folly of those who could not enjoy in quietness the spoils of purely abstract office-holding, but must needs quarrel over them, and at last break up and impeach and depose one another. Generally speaking, again, nobody believes that the secession of the ten Fenian Senators, and the election of a new Fenian President, with a vast deal of elegant writing in the newspapers, means anything in the world but the suspicion of some of the Fenians that the others were getting more of the money of the cooks and chambermaids than they ought to have according to the operation of a principle with which we are familiar in the form of adage.

Of course, these are not the explanations of the case which the Fenian Brotherhood offers, but the public is forced to accept them, because it cannot understand the Brotherhood's reasons. The Brotherhood's reasons are too abstruse and, at the same time, too abundant, and fill too many columns of fine print, and altogether would take a great deal of time to read which could be much more profitably given to a thorough acquaintance with the Strong Divorce Case. All that plainly appears is that the Fenian Brotherhood throughout the country is pretty equally divided into believers in O'Mahony and believers in Roberts, and that everybody has disappeared as soon as trusted with Fenian money, as if Fenian money were an agent of sorcery which instantly rendered its possessor invisible. There is a pathetic story of one who went to Ireland with a draft in his boots, and lost it in pulling them off; John Mitchel has passed into oblivion with \$75,000 on his person, with which he was authorized to corrupt the Emperor of the French; another ambassador to the Tuileries is said to have wisely deposited his money in Paris, so as to impress the tradesmen with whom he had dealings as a merchant that he had boundless resources. Finally, B. Doran Killian, the type of valor and the ornament of epistolary composition, having shown symptoms of a pecuniary retention suspicious in a Treasurer of the Irish Republic, has been deposed by the ten seceding senators from his office, as far as they could depose him. Naturally, Mr. B. Doran Killian does not acknowledge any dismissal from office in his case, and supports President O'Mahony with all the eloquence of his ardent pen.

The latter gentleman is naturally the object of exceeding bitterness and of glowing eulogy, according as the head centres approve or disapprove his attitude, and varies in his private and public qualities all the way from Jefferson Davis up to General Washington. All that is certainly known about him is that he defends his presidency against the world, and that he continues to direct the destinies of the mutilated remains of the Irish Republic of Union Square, while President Roberts presides over the missing fragments somewhere on Broadway.

In this pleasant state of things the head directress of the Fenian Sisterhood has the sublime courage to address a fresh appeal for funds to the verdant branches of the Fenian Sisterhood, in which she tells them that the call has gone forth, and that Ireland is to be freed in a very few days, if the branches will sell their jewelry for the cause, and dress plainly. This is a reasonable request, and ought to receive a favorable response.

Articles on any of the subjects usually discussed in this Journal will be received from any quarter. If used, they will be liberally paid for; if rejected, they will be returned to the writers on the receipt of the requisite amount of postage stamps.

All Communications which pertain to the literary management of THE NATION should be addressed to the Editor.

A WORD WITH SENSIBLE SOUTHERNERS.

MR. DE BOW, and a great number of other Southerners of education and intelligence, particularly the ex-officers of the Confederate army, profess to be, and we are bound to believe are, now sincerely anxious to restore material prosperity at the South. They say frankly that they do not like the new order of things—that they wish it were different, and have done their best to make it so, but they accept accomplished facts, and are now about to go to work and try to make the new South, if not as happy or satisfactory as the old one, at least as rich. Numbers of these men have gone to work on their farms; many more have gone into business; and large numbers are now on here at the North trying to secure the aid of Northern capitalists in developing the resources of their soil and building up their broken fortunes. They may be met with in all our Northern cities, trying either to borrow money or to induce Northern men who have money to go into partnership with them. As to Mr. De Bow, the great apostle of slaveholding economy, he has abandoned the "eternal truths" he used to preach in the *Review* with the most praiseworthy versatility, and proposes now to do for free labor all, and more than all, he used to do for slave labor.

This is all as it should be. Nobody who admires manliness and good sense can help admiring it. There is little doubt that the regeneration of the South, whenever it comes, must come from the exertions of these men—from their full perception of the truths, moral, social, and political, which the North has been so long preaching and practising. But they ought to be told, and we trust everybody who comes in contact with them does tell them, frankly, that neither Northern capital nor labor can ever be had at the South in sufficient quantity to contribute much to the development of its resources, until they can induce their people in some way or other to pay more respect to the life and property of Northern settlers and of negroes than they now show. We are not now talking about the moral aspect of the case. We will grant, for the sake of argument, that it may be a natural and even excusable thing to hang, shoot, and harry the negroes in the way described by our correspondent in this week's paper, or to threaten or drive out Yankee visitors and settlers in the style practised the other day upon the able correspondent of the *Boston Advertiser* in Albany, Georgia. But the great question for sensible and influential Southerners is, Will it pay? Is it expedient? Do they seriously suppose that, after all that has happened, Northern men will invest capital in sufficient quantities to be of much use in a country in which mobs, composed of the "most prominent citizens," are in the habit of assembling, as in the case of the correspondent of the *Advertiser*, to murder a man in his hotel on suspicion of sympathizing with negroes, to set the law at defiance, and to make the night hideous in a quiet town with drunken railings? Do they seriously imagine that Northern men will go down to enter into partnerships, and carry with them their families and their hard earnings, and establish their homes in a place in which they will hold their lives and their property at the mercy of the more evil disposed of their neighbors, and be forced to watch every word they utter on the social and political problems of the day, lest some careless expression should be distorted into an excuse for murdering or pillaging them, or hunting them out of the country?

Now we tell these gentlemen plainly, until they can, either by their influence or example, put an end to this state of things at the South—until they can induce their friends and neighbors, we will not say to like the Yankees, but to treat them civilly and to tolerate their ideas and the expression of them, and to support the law in protecting their lives and property, they might as well buy the moon as come on here to raise money or organize emigration. A few adventurous spirits, or men who share Southern prejudices or are ready to pretend that they share them, or a few speculators who will run any risks for the chance of high profits, may accept their invitations to emigrate or invest; but the prudent, careful, industrious men of the North, the only ones whose sup-

port in commercial undertakings is worth having, will have nothing to do with them. Some of the Southerners who have come North have probably found this out by this time; we can assure those who have not yet tried the experiment that they will find it out also in time.

And all this applies to the want of protection for the blacks as well as for the white men. There are very few people who have been bred in the sober, orderly communities of the North who will want to live where whipping, shooting, and assaulting are going on around them, whether they themselves are exposed to them or not, or where a permanent and bitter antagonism is fostered between two races. There is in all such states of society a constant feeling of insecurity and discomfort. There are few Northern men who can avoid sympathizing with the victims of cruelty or injustice; and there are no conscientious or brave men who can feel that sympathy and long conceal it. Yet, in most districts of the South, any display of such sympathy at this moment would, if half what we hear be true, lead, to use the terse and expressive language of one of our correspondents, to a man's being "shot in the back" the first time he left his house. As long as this state of things lasts, we must tell the intelligent men of the South that no considerable body of emigrants can be tempted away from the fertile plains and settled and peaceful social organization of the North-west. Young and adventurous and single men may like to go to bed every night anticipating a visit from a Champ Ferguson or a Quantrell before morning, but they soon lose their taste for it, and middle-aged and married men will not face it on any terms.

The *Evening Post*, which, since the war came to an end, has shown an extraordinary tendency to take the loftiest philosophical views of human society both North and South, not long ago read a severe lecture to one of its correspondents for complaining of the railing against the Union and the North which he constantly heard in the South, and the abuse and insolence to which Northern men were exposed. It told him that he must let Southerners rail and call names, and asked him sarcastically what harm could it do him. Now we submit with great deference, that although abuse and hard names either in the Southern States or anywhere else are, *per se*, perfectly harmless, yet whenever they indicate, as they unquestionably do at the South, that something worse is coming, they are calculated to make people of ordinary nerves highly uncomfortable. If one's neighbors at the North blackguard him a little, he knows perfectly well that in nine cases out of ten they will stop when they get tired, or that if they keep it up too long, he can call in the assistance of the police. But it is one of the peculiarities of Southern society, that when a person becomes obnoxious to others, and especially to a whole neighborhood, for any reason whatever, and they give vent to their feelings in scolding or vituperation, they are apt to appear on the scene soon after with rifles, or shot-guns, or a rail, a bag of feathers, and a pot of tar, and give him still more substantial proofs of their displeasure. It is this which makes Southern scolding so exceedingly disagreeable to people brought up in more cold-blooded communities, and which gives Northern men who travel in the South the right to treat Southern language as an important and alarming symptom of the social and political condition of the country.

ONE BRANCH OF NATIVE INDUSTRY THAT NEEDS PROTECTION.

IN all schemes and appeals for the protection of native industry that we have ever seen, the claims of one section of national workers, the authors and artists, have been entirely overlooked, although we have no hesitation in saying that the work they do, or would do if they got fair play, is just as important, in the highest sense of the word, to the community at large as that of any branch of trade or manufacture. No other traders or manufacturers—and for the purpose of this argument we may consider their calling a manufacture—are treated with the gross injustice of which they are the victims. The most ardent free-trader has never wished to have foreign products placed on a better footing in the home markets than the native ones. If the latter are the subject of an excise tax, he is willing that an import duty of a similar weight should be clapt on the former. And what the protectionist seeks is that the native manufacture shall be protected against the competition of the foreign one. But at this moment we have so arranged matters

with regard to literary and artistic products, that the publisher, or, in other words, the importer, shall be able to import them duty free, and reproduce them to any extent he pleases, leaving the poor author or artist without even that amount of protection which, under a system of absolute free trade, is derived from the importer having at least to pay the foreign producer for his labor.

It is not an uncommon supposition that the absence of copyright treaties with foreign countries, although it may tend to some doubtful results in point of honesty, at least inflicts no material injury on anybody but the foreign author. But this is a gross fallacy, and one which we wish to dispel. The native author and artist suffer far more, and the country suffers to an extent, too, of which few who have not given the matter much consideration have any idea. This subject is brought very forcibly to our mind just now by the holiday books which lie on our table. A very large proportion of them—we will not say what proportion, lest we should be deemed guilty of exaggeration—are reproductions either in whole or in part of English books; of the designs, it is safe to say that two-thirds are those of English artists. This is true of the lighter literature. It is true in a still greater degree of the heavy. Almost all the weighty books, requiring protracted thought or research for their production—dictionaries, political, religious, or philosophic or economic speculation, which have appeared in the American market for several years, have been of foreign origin. Even the department of political philosophy, in which we once shone, seems to have passed out of our hands. Mill, Buckle, Lecky, Göschel, De Tocqueville, Laboulaye, have of late years done nearly all our deep thinking and protracted investigating for us, though all these men have been laboring in fields in which we, with our greater freedom from the obscuring influence of tradition, ought, unquestionably, to be more at home than they.

Our dependence on European art is not so apparent. Of late years we have been making great progress in its higher branches, but in the higher branches of art our artists do enjoy complete protection. Paintings and statues cannot be multiplied except at a cost in labor and money little short of that of the original. But designs can be reproduced *ad infinitum*, and we accordingly find that our designing power is infinitesimally small. The designs on our carpets and cottons, so far as we can be said to have any, are imported from Europe; those in our illustrated books come mostly from the same source. Our illustrated papers appropriate everything from foreign journals that will possibly admit of adaptation to local circumstances, with the most admirable *song froid*. Great progress has been made during the war, owing to the necessity of the case, in descriptive drawing, but when there is any call for creative power, as in the case of *Mrs. Grundy* and other defunct comic journals, the lack of it is made deplorably manifest, and mainly, in our opinion, because the facility with which publishers are allowed to help themselves abroad has prevented its cultivation at home.

It may as well be understood, once for all, that but very few men will devote themselves with all their souls to literary or artistic pursuits without any hope of material advantage. The most ardent worshipper of the sublime or beautiful wants in our day to be paid for his work, and paid well; and unless he is paid well he will not stick to it. This is particularly true in this country, where so many roads to pecuniary independence are open to every man of ordinary industry and energy. There are not many men who love art or letters well enough to turn aside from "business" in order to write or draw, unless these pursuits too are sufficiently like business to pay them for their time. But we may rely upon it we shall not only never witness the formation of a good and large literary class here, or get our best men to do their best in writing and designing, until the command of the American market is secured to them. How can any review, for instance, afford to offer writers sufficient inducements to use all their powers in its service, when every quarterly and almost every monthly in England is cribbed wholesale and hawked about the country for a small profit on poor paper and worse typography? And how can we expect our best artists to use their highest powers in that most important branch of art, the designing of wood-cuts for popular publications, when publishers are able to appropriate everything they can lay hands on abroad, and multiply it here to any extent they please? With such

a book-buying public as we have, artists ought every Christmas to reap a golden harvest from the preparation of drawings for holiday books. As it is, they derive hardly any benefit from the enormous sales of this species of literature which take place every year. Very few of them are called on to contribute; those who are, find the price of their work fixed by the cost of copying English designs; and what is almost worse is, the scurvy execution of the copies prevents native designers being compelled to do their best in competition. Any of them can, with very little exertion, produce work that will compare well enough with the poor copies of English prints by which so many of our holiday books are disfigured.

It is no doubt true that knowledge is diffused and society benefited by the fact that the works of foreign authors are, through the wonderful freedom of trade enjoyed by our publishers, to be had very cheap. We dare say we know more than we should know if there were not so many cheap reprints of foreign books. But we certainly *think* much less, and there is nothing more certain than that we shall as a nation, no matter what wonderful results we may achieve in beef, pork, and flour, and machinery and inventions, never realize our own ideal, unless more of our thinking is done in America; unless the American mind is applied with greater intensity and thoroughness than at present to the study of the great social and moral and political problems of our time. This will, however, never be until our thinkers get a fair chance in the market of their own country. Philosophers need bread and butter and beef-steaks as well as other people, so do writers of all kinds who undertake to do their work thoroughly, and at present it is hardly worth the while, in a material sense, for any American writer to do anything thoroughly. Our slowness in forming a large literary class, or even a large class possessed of a keen critical judgment, may, we think, be partly accounted for in the same way. At present the only authors below those of genius who have really "made a good thing" out of literature are "historians" like J. S. C. Abbott, and "biographers" like P. C. and J. T. Headley, and "moralists" like our friend A. Muzzey, who play about the same part in supplying the public with intellectual food that the great stump-tail establishments do in supplying it with milk.

THE GOVERNMENT AND THE EIGHT-HOUR MOVEMENT.

THE advocates of the eight-hour movement are making an effort to have the working-day restricted to eight hours in all Government yards and workshops, which is a very good idea if Government can afford it, as it cannot until it has paid its debts. Nor has it an right to pay any of its employees more than the market price for a fair day's labor as long as the rest of the community is working to the utmost extent of its powers, in order to meet the heavy burden of taxation under which we are now laboring. The day when it will be established as a precedent that the Government is authorized to pay men full wages for a short day's labor will witness the unsaling of a great fountain of corruption. There are not many steps from this to the establishment of Louis Blanc's "national workshops."

It is hoped, we are told, that the example of the Government will exercise a "moral influence" on other employers, and lead them to do likewise. If the question were simply a moral one, this might be a legitimate way of pricking the consciences of hardened capitalists. But the doctrine that men have to work ten hours a day owing simply to the greed or hardheartedness of capitalists is an unfair assumption. In democratic countries, people are supposed to work for what length of time they please. The argument that American workmen have to submit to the demands of capitalists in order to save their families from starving, means simply that they are, as regards this, in pretty much the same fix as nine-tenths of the human race, though in many other respects better off. We are all, who have not inherited wealth, or accumulated it by past industry, working to keep ourselves and others dependent on us from starvation, and if we work to the full extent of our powers, it simply proves that society requires it of us, and that the world has not acquired sufficient wealth to allow of the human race maintaining itself on half time.

There is only one way in which these demands can be rendered less injurious, and that is by reducing the community to a condition of contentment like that of the natives of the tropics, for whom a few

mangoes a day and a cotton rag twice a year fill the cup of bliss to the brim. Capitalists, when they get all the labor they can for their money without injuring the powers of those who work for them, fulfil the only condition on which capital can be either preserved or increased, and it is their first duty to increase it; and in our opinion, in a free country like this, where every man has the unbridled use of his faculties, Providence has so arranged it that in doing this they shall serve the best interests of those around them.

But the eight-hour men have not, after all, faced the real question, and that is—How do you propose to enable capitalists who are reached by your law to compete with those who are not; and how do you propose to prevent those who own capital from transferring it to other places as soon as your law begins to diminish their profits?

THE PROGRESS OF THE CATTLE PLAGUE.

THE report of the commissioners concerning the cattle plague in England was made at the close of October, when the rate of mortality from pest and pole-axe together did not seem to justify their recommendation of a general suspension of transportation and a very free slaughtering of infected beasts. But the returns of the four succeeding weeks have indicated a truly alarming increase of the ravages, and equal the total loss for as many months since the disease broke out. From the original centre of infection it is now estimated that there have been developed by contagion four thousand separate centres, embracing nearly the whole of Great Britain. Estimating the horned stock of the island at 7,000,000 head, the weekly mortality up to the 21st October was 700; a month later it was four times that number, with an upward tendency. Add to these uncomfortable statistics that by certain Orders in Council inspectors of neat cattle have been appointed, through the justices of the peace, with almost unlimited power to destroy or cause to be destroyed, not only the infected, but even the remaining healthy, portion of any herd.

When it is remembered that the *Rinderpest* which afflicted England in the middle of the last century lasted more than a dozen years and died out rather than was expelled, while as yet science is unable to explain its nature or to provide a remedy, it is natural for all classes of the population to be despondent before the present prospect. There is, indeed, a temporary gleam of hope from a despised quarter. The application of the homeopathic treatment has begun, in spite of much opposition from the regular practitioners, and has commended itself to some of the richest and largest stock-owners, who, for the rest, are not universally believers in it. No positive result has yet been reached. A Mr. Moore is said to have been successful in the county of Norfolk; but his cures are disparaged by assertions that he selects the mildest type of the disease. This, however, is better than nothing. In Yorkshire on certain farms fifty per cent. of the cattle attacked have been saved, it is asserted, by homeopaths. On the other hand, the *Times* mentions an experiment in Leeds where seventeen cattle were housed with great regard to temperature and subjected to the same treatment. Of these eleven died and the others were not expected to live. "Arsenicum" appears to be the drug chiefly relied on, and is even administered as a prophylactic. A report on this treatment is eagerly awaited from the Dutch Government, for it is stated that seventy-three per cent. of the cattle attacked in Holland are indebted for their preservation to the disciples of Hahnemann.

Philosophers are not wanting to turn the calamity of the plague to account, and to see in it the cause of permanent advantages. The price of meat having risen inordinately in London and the great towns, a growing resort to distant butchers is noticed, with the promise of lowering prices in the city and enhancing them in the country; in other words, of equalizing them throughout the kingdom. Those who do not patronize Devonshire or other counties send to Holland and Denmark as easily and cheaply for sides and quarters, and meat is now imported in this fashion at 6d. or less per pound. Liebig's extract of meat, once considered a costly article of diet, has been outstripped by the rise in beef, and is coming into fashion. American beef and mutton are also in the market at moderate rates, and the importation is likely to increase. Then it is hoped that Parliament will take measures

to establish a system of agricultural statistics, for want of which there is now great ignorance of the proportion between the wealth of the farming districts and the losses entailed upon them by the plague. The British secretaries of legation on the Continent are instructed to obtain such statistics from the respective countries in which they reside, but it would be impossible for them to give in return an account of acres, crops, and domestic animals in their own. The ignorance of the farmers, who fear an exposure of their private affairs, has been and still is the chief obstacle to the proposed system. The land-owners favor it.

The bill which Mr. Wentworth carried through the House on Monday week, and was reported in the Senate on Thursday, prohibits henceforth the importation of cattle to this country until thirty days after the President shall have proclaimed the danger of contagion to be past. The measure is prudent and timely.

Correspondence.

THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE STATES.

IV.

THE STATES UNDER THE CONSTITUTION.

BEFORE proceeding to discuss the relations between the individual States and the United States—relations which must be considered in the light of a pending, practical, vital question, not of a mere historical problem—I desire to protest against the imputation that I am covertly arguing in favor of federal centralization or of any increase of executive or legislative federal powers. I would sooner reduce than augment those powers. I would greatly retrench the federal patronage, which is one of the executive powers most dangerous to the liberties of the citizen, and, at the same time, to him who wields it, for in unskilful hands it is apt to prove suicidal; and I would not enlarge the sphere to which the law-making power of Congress extends. But, at the same time, I think some of the questions which the framers of the Constitution did not dare to touch, or which have been unsettled by State legislation, or by the weakness, the partiality, or the partizanship of judicial tribunals, should now be determined for ever by constitutional amendment. For the first time since the Constitution went into operation, the true friends of its fundamental principles, the real democracy, have the power of supplying its deficiencies, explaining its few equivocal provisions, and correcting its fundamental error—the toleration of an aristocratic class. Politically speaking, the enemies of the Union "have no rights which" its friends "are bound to respect." Let us generously use the power which the sword, not the revival of patriotic sentiment among a traitorous faction, has given us, for purposes of undeserved mercy; and let us confer on the rebellious South, in spite of herself, those equal institutions the value of which she is incompetent to appreciate, and which she certainly has not yet shown that she merits.

Independently of all considerations of justice and humanity to the negro as such, the rights and franchises of citizenship ought to be determined by explanatory amendments to the federal Constitution, because the plain intent and meaning of its provisions have been perverted and set at naught both by State legislation and by a sectionally inspired judiciary.

By the second section of the fourth article it is declared that "the citizens of each State shall be entitled to all the privileges and immunities of citizens in the several States." The legislation of the South has nullified this provision by denying to citizens of Northern States the rights guaranteed to them by the clause in question; and to sustain this monstrous violation of constitutional law, the Supreme Court, in defiance of every principle of American jurisprudence and of the notorious fact that many, if not most, of even the slaveholding States had extended the elective franchise to free colored persons, solemnly adjudged that such persons could not be citizens—could not be men—under our boasted frame of free government. This shameful decision cannot, indeed, be expunged from our judicial records. It must remain for ever as emphatically the "damned spot" of the partricial hand, the ineffaceable stain on the scutcheon of the federal judiciary. We cannot recall to life the millions who have fallen, the oceans of treasure that have been wasted in the struggle which found its occasion, if not its chief cause, in that ill-omened judgment; but we can, at least, repudiate the perverted interpretation of the Constitution, and remove one cause of future conflict of local jurisdictions, by providing a common test of citizenship, a common rule of civic qualification, for all who by birth or naturalization are entitled to the privileges of American nationality.

A further necessity for regulating the qualifications of citizenship by constitutional provision has arisen from the action of different States in regard to residents of foreign birth. The seventh section of the first article of the Constitution confers upon Congress the power "to establish a uniform rule of naturalization," and the Supreme Court has decided that this authority is lodged exclusively in Congress. Some of the States, however, have practically overruled this decision and the constitutional provision to which it refers, by conferring the elective franchise on foreigners not naturalized, without requiring any other qualification than a short residence. It is contended in some parts of the Union that, in spite of this decision, every State has the right to fix the qualifications of voters for the local legislature. By the second section of the first article of the Constitution it is provided that the electors of members of Congress shall have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the State legislature. Accordingly, a foreigner who is permitted to vote for a representative in such legislature, votes also for members of Congress. While, therefore, a native-born freeman who owns a large estate, pays taxes in proportion, and perhaps serves in the army, is in one State denied a voice in the government of his country, a transient foreigner, here to-day and gone again back to Europe, perhaps, to-morrow, who pays no taxes, who is ignorant even of the English language, and who does not so much as know that we have a Constitution, has, in another State, or even in the same, as great weight in the election of members of Congress as Andrew Johnson or Ulysses S. Grant. Nay, the inequality does not stop here; for in some States qualifications are required in native-born white freemen which are not required elsewhere in foreigners who have given no other pledge of their intention to become American citizens than a year's residence. Such discrepancies in the exercise of the most sacred of political rights ought not to exist in a free and enlightened commonwealth. They cannot be harmonized by concert between the States. Congress has no jurisdiction of the question; and it is evident that the evil can be remedied only by constitutional amendment.

The claims to the rights of secession and of nullification ought also to be for ever silenced by declaratory provision. But, these various points being regulated by proper changes in our organic law, and the amendment abolishing slavery being adopted, I would leave the States unshorn of every prerogative, and in the full enjoyment of every power and privilege which they have hitherto possessed.

I have said that the point under discussion, the sovereignty of the States, was a pending, practical, vital question, and it seems to me that, unless the view I am taking of the subject is sound, neither the emancipation proclamation nor any other of the leading measures of the last Administration, nor even the plan of reconstruction now in progress under President Johnson, can be sustained as having any legal force or validity. Every one of the measures in question involves the exercise of powers by the national Executive and Congress which are utterly inconsistent with the notion of a substantial sovereignty in the States. Sovereignities are either co-equal or, with reference to each other, they are non-existent; for "a sovereignty subordinate to another sovereignty" is a contradiction in terms, and the true relation of the inferior to the superior can never be expressed by a proposition which shall ascribe that attribute to both, with whatever qualifications it may be guarded. We may indeed say, loosely, of the United States and the several States, that they are sovereign each in their respective spheres. But we may, with equal truth and comprehensiveness of meaning, say the same thing of the United States and any chartered corporation—Dartmouth College, for instance. The word sovereign signifies just as much in one case as in the other, and it is an abuse of language to employ it in either. The application of the predicate "sovereign"—a definite and well understood technical term of the vocabulary of political science—to the States of the American Union, is precisely one of those cases where, as Coleridge observes, "by familiarizing the mind to equivocal expressions—that is, such as may be taken in two or more different meanings—we introduce confusion of thought and furnish the sophist with his best and handiest tools. For the juggle of sophistry consists, for the most part, in using a word in one sense in the premises and in another sense in the conclusion." In the minds of the framers of the confederation, "sovereign," as applied to the several States, conveyed a totally different idea from that expressed by the same word as applied to the United States, or to other independent powers, as France or Great Britain; and this double use of the word, this "juggle" of Southern sophistry, has proved the "best and handiest tool" of the State-right disorganizers.

It must strike persons familiar with our political history as a singular fact, that the pretensions of the several States to the rights of sovereignty have risen just in proportion as more and more the real attributes of sov-

eignty have been denied to them by the successive forms of organic law under which we have lived. The colonies, with far larger governmental prerogatives than the States have ever enjoyed, claimed no sovereignty at all. The States, under their original organization by authority of Congress, made no such claim. It was not advanced in the Declaration of Independence, which in no way attempted to define or limit State powers, nor was it heard of until the confederation, in which instrument a feeble plea was set up in its behalf. In the species of interregnum which elapsed between the confederation and the Constitution, no definite pretension or recognition of State sovereignty was put forward or conceded, and it was only after the Constitution had declared the States destitute of every shadow of truly sovereign power which the confederation had left them, that the crazy doctrine of a supremacy within, and at the same time absolutely independent of, another supremacy, the most consummate *reductio ad absurdum* ever arrived at by political theorists, appeared in its full-blown mock majesty. It is to modern South Carolina that we are indebted for the fullest development of these doctrines, for it is her publicists who have proclaimed the States to be superior over Congress, over the federal judiciary, over the people of the Union. But the pupils have outrun the master; for Calhoun, though he advocated nullification, or the right of a State to decide for itself upon the constitutionality of a law of Congress, admitted that the right of secession did not exist.

In following the steps of this history, we are continually brought back to the question: How did the Anglo-American colonies individually acquire this attribute of sovereignty?

Not by royal grant, assuredly.

Not by successful revolt and conquest of independence. For it was not the colonial governments which revolted. On the contrary, the people revolted against those governments as the instruments of British despotism, overthrew them, and erected in their place new governments organized under the authority of Congress.

Nor did any colony conquer its own independence.

All fought for all; all achieved together the independence of the people of the United States. The sovereignty won by American arms could only lodge in the power which conquered it—the people, namely, whose only common visible organ was the Congress, and in whom it still remains, except just so far as that people has conceded it, for local purposes, to the States. Congress being once organized, the exercise of the popular sovereignty was vested in it, and the people looked to this instrument of their own creation as the *deus ex machina* who was to intervene because a *dignus vindice nodus*, a conjuncture demanding the putting forth of powers which no Colonial Governments could, either singly or jointly, exercise, had arisen. It has always been admitted that, in a revolution which aims at emancipation from allegiance to an existing dynasty, of whatever form or name, the revolutionary government, to which the nation entrusts its physical force for the achievement of its deliverance, is necessarily supreme. The inefficiency of Congress was not in its want of power, but in the want of organs for the employment of its powers, and when, at a critical moment in the autumn of 1776, the national Government bestowed upon Washington the unlimited authority of a military dictator, no State complained that Congress had gone beyond its limits by conferring what it did not itself possess. There was, then, at this period, no sovereign but the American people; for sovereignty could not lodge in subordinate jurisdiction; in colonies which had no governments but those acknowledging the supremacy of Congress and existing only by its authorization; in colonies which had no known, no ascertainable, in fact no possible, boundaries, and, of course, not even a geographical individuality. And in connection with this last point, it is important to notice that the consciousness of this fact, namely, the impossibility of knowing the territorial limits, the extent of jurisdiction of the several colonies, had a vast influence in opening the eyes of sectional politicians to the true status of those corporations, and was an argument of great weight in inducing the adoption of a national frame of government, invested with power to administer, for the common benefit, the immense empire of unappropriated lands to which there were so many conflicting claims.

Nor has State sovereignty been conceded by grant from the people of the United States. We have shown that neither by the Declaration of Independence nor by the Confederation was this attribute conferred upon the several States. It remains to enquire whether the federal Constitution so enlarged the prerogatives of those bodies as to entitle them to claim the rank of sovereign and independent peoples, which will be the object of my next and final communication on this subject.

G. P. M.

FLORENCE, ITALY, NOV. 30.

OLD ENGLISH LITERATURE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: I beg leave to avail myself of your columns to call attention to the proceedings of the Early English Text Society of London, an association formed for the purpose of publishing, at cheap rates, and in a form satisfactory to critical scholarship, that portion of old English literature which has not yet been made generally accessible to students of our mother tongue. It is well known that the public and private libraries of England contain a large number of manuscripts of early English writers which have never been printed, and that many valuable works belonging to the primitive age of English literature, though printed, cannot be said to have been published, because the editions have not been brought into the market, and have consisted only of a sufficient number to supply the members of small literary clubs, and hence they are practically almost as much out of the reach of ordinary scholars as if they still existed only in manuscript. It is said that more than half of the early printed literature of England—including the romances relating to King Arthur, who, after having been almost forgotten for five centuries, has, though perhaps but a mythical creation, been evoked from the dead and made an ever-living memory by the genius of Tennyson—is in this inaccessible condition, while the yet unprinted song and story of British national infancy would form a body of mediæval literature very considerable in extent, in philological interest, and in intrinsic worth.

In 1864 the society published a volume of alliterative poetry of the fourteenth century; a new text of the story of Arthur; "Lauder on the Office and Dewtie of Kyngis;" and "Syr Gawayne and the Green Knight." The publications for 1865 make seven volumes, comprising texts from four unique manuscripts now edited for the first time, besides three works of which small editions had previously been printed; and it is intended to increase the number of yearly issues as fast as due care in preparation and execution permit, and the amount of subscription justifies.

The volumes are of the octavo size; the texts conform with scrupulous accuracy to the best manuscripts; they are provided with learned historical and critical introductions, various readings, explanatory notes and glossarial indexes, and, as reproductions of most valuable and fast decaying literary and philological material, they satisfy every reasonable demand, while in mechanical execution they leave nothing to be desired.

The annual subscription is but twenty-one shillings sterling, or five dollars and eight cents, which is scarcely half what the volumes would cost if brought out in the usual way of publication.

The labor of editing works of this character and of carrying them through the press is immense. The eminent philologists who are performing this task must be very inadequately compensated, if, indeed, they receive any pecuniary recompense; and it would be hard to name a literary enterprise of the present day which better merits a generous encouragement among the nations that use the English tongue.

If the society is sustained as it deserves, its operations will, in a few years, place the American scholar who avails himself of its labors on a level with the favored few who have access to the vast repositories of manuscript lore in England, and we shall be able to prosecute original researches into the structure, composition, and history of our noble speech, instead of adopting, without independent enquiry, as we have been hitherto too often obliged to do, the conclusions of foreign investigators.

When, a few years ago, the London Philological Society asked the aid of American scholarship in the collection and preparation of the material for the great English thesaurus which it had undertaken, the appeal scarcely met with a response, a large proportion of the letters addressed to literary men, and especially to the professors in American colleges, on this subject, not having even been answered. It reflects little credit on the zeal of our literati for the elucidation of their native tongue that one of the most magnificent lexicographical enterprises ever undertaken—an enterprise, too, in which our real interest is every whit as great as that of the people of England—should have been treated with this cold neglect; and I am sorry to be obliged to add that, though the proposals of the Early English Text Society have been brought to the notice of a large number of American literary men, they have been received with equal indifference.

The publications of this society will undoubtedly form the most important series of works illustrative of old English philology ever offered to the public. No literary institution possessing a permanent library, no student who makes the English language a specialty, can dispense with this collection. No better—and, if I must again refer to the economical argument, no cheaper—helps can be found for the study of old English literature, and yet, though our colleges and ardent philologists are counted by hundreds, not ten

subscriptions for these volumes have been received from the United States!

I do not know that the society has any authorized agent in New York, but subscriptions can be remitted, and the volumes received, through any bookseller who imports from London. The subscription of one pound one shilling is payable annually before the first of January, and remittances, with directions for the consignment of the books, should be sent to the Honorary Secretary, H. R. Wheatley, Esq., 53 Berners Street, London, W.

G. P. M.

FLORENCE, November 20, 1865.

A CHEAP AND EASY WAY TO FAME.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

A late British periodical has briefly noticed a bookselling speculation which deserves a mention in the columns of THE NATION, both as one of the curiosities of contemporary literature and because it offers to the illustrious obscure of our own and other countries a means of securing present fame and future immortality at rates which, considering the price men are willing to pay for even vulgar notoriety, must be allowed to be dog-cheap. With this view I give you the history of a case where the privilege of blowing his own trumpet was offered to an American residing in Europe in an official capacity. Operations were commenced by a letter from the directorship of the Temple of Renown at Geneva, or, as it modestly styles itself, the "Histoire Générale des Services, des Œuvres et des Fonctions dans chaque Nation," informing the person addressed that his name was to form the subject of a "historical article" or of a "mention" in that work, and requesting him to communicate to the director such information as he should think expedient. The "Histoire Générale" was described as an historical and biographical dictionary on the plan of Moreri, and designed as a continuation of that work. It was to be published in both octavo and folio, and it was stated that it counted among its subscribers twenty-six sovereign princes of the blood and other chiefs of states, three hundred and sixty heads of princely houses and other great families, one hundred and eighty ministers of state, ambassadors, ministers plenipotentiary, field-marschals, admirals, other great dignitaries, cardinals and other ecclesiastics, generals, men of science, besides a miscellaneous multitude of persons in "different social positions."

In spite of the temptation of seeing himself in such choice company, the gentleman in question took no notice of the invitation, and it was followed by a second letter, earnestly pressing the request for such facts of his personal history as would suffice for "the few lines of which a *simple mention* was composed." He then sent the director a statement of the facts and dates of his official and public life, and was soon after favored with a third communication, acknowledging the receipt of the information, which was pronounced to be full enough for an "article assez complet," instead of a *simple mention*. The candidate for fame, present and posthumous, being now regarded as having fairly nibbled at the bait, he was informed that, in consideration of the great expense of bringing out so voluminous a publication, of running cars for posterity—a terminus so distant that trains would start "only once in an age or a generation"—he must make a "subscription," take a first, second, or third class ticket, according to his ambition and his purse. The price of the first class, articles of six or seven large folio pages, was a thousand francs; of the second, three or four pages, five hundred; of the third, one or two full pages, two hundred; and any additional amount of celebrity could be had at one hundred and fifty francs per page, payment in advance in all cases. "Well," said the gentleman on reading this communication, "if I can't go down to posterity on cheaper terms than these, I'll stay here!" and he returned no reply to the director. A further attempt was made to secure his patronage, by an offer of twenty-five per cent. deduction from the regular prices, as a compensation for the authorship of his own biography, but, this not being accepted, the correspondence was dropped, and large as is the space he fills in his own eye, future generations must be content with such knowledge of him, his words, and his works as they can gather from a "simple mention" of his name in the "Histoire Générale des Services, des Œuvres et des Fonctions dans chaque Nation."

"He that is great wants to be rich; he that is rich wants to be great," says the French proverb. Our war is reported to have made many great men rich. Let our rich who long to be great address themselves—of course, with remittance post-paid—to the illustrious Goncet, à la Direction de l'Histoire Générale, à Genève, and glory shall be dealt out to them in proportion to their tin.

VIATOR.

ROME, November 20, 1865.

THE SOUTH AS IT IS.
FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.

XXI.

CHARLESTON, S. C., November 27, 1865.

THE various new influences and agencies recently brought to bear upon the freed people of South Carolina are all under the direction and control of officers whose headquarters are in this city. The courtesy of these gentlemen has enabled me, during my stay in Charleston, to gather some information, not easily to be obtained elsewhere, on two or three interesting subjects, such as the negro schools, the Freedmen's Savings Bank, one of the most useful of Gen. Saxton's institutions, the working of the Freedmen's Bureau throughout the State, and the reports made by its subordinate officers to the Assistant Commissioner.

The task of instructing the negroes was begun at Port Royal, under the auspices of the Northern Freedmen's Aid Commissions, so long ago as the spring of 1862, and the schools then founded have since been constantly giving instruction to many hundred persons, and are still in successful operation. As soon as Charleston was surrendered, these same charitable societies sent out their teachers and a supply of books; and in March last, under the general supervision of Mr. Redpath, of Massachusetts, several large schools were formed, which were kept open till July. In the autumn, by a happy appointment, Mr. Reuben Tomlinson was made State Superintendent of Education. He at once proceeded to grade the schools in the city, to provide them with suitable rooms, and so far as possible to extend the school system over all the State. To a considerable extent this has been effected. The Freedmen's Bureau is poor, and before the school buildings could be fitted for the reception of pupils it became necessary for the superintendent to expend something like a thousand dollars of his private means in making needful repairs. The houses had suffered from Gillmore's bombardment.

By the middle of October about eighteen hundred scholars were collected into three schools, separated into many classes, and put in charge of forty competent teachers. The largest school, held in the old Normal School building, contains nearly eight hundred pupils. The head-master is a colored man, a graduate of the University of Glasgow, and the various classes are taught by about twenty persons, of whom some are Northern women and some Southern, and of the latter some are white and some are colored. In the other large school the principal is a Massachusetts man, and among his sixteen subordinates are included women from New England, women who were once slaves, and women belonging to Charleston families once wealthy, but made poor by the war. Among the pupils there were no white children, or rather, none of unmixed Caucasian blood; there were many whom most people would have taken for white, and more than a fourth of the children were brown or yellow. I visited many of the rooms, finding the scholars studious and very orderly, and at all stages of advancement. In a room of the Normal School building three hundred children together were taking an object lesson; in another room a class of boys, whose parents, I was told, intended them for professional life, were transposing, analyzing, and parsing a passage from Milton's "L'Allegro," and recitations in reading and arithmetic were going on with more or less success before the other teachers.

A majority of the pupils in these schools were ignorant of the alphabet a year ago, but nearly half of them had received some instruction. The first assistant in the Normal School building, a free colored girl, has kept a private school in Charleston during the past four years, and among her present pupils are many of her old ones. Having been herself educated by her father, she began just before the war to teach a class of forty or fifty free colored girls in her own house. Under the law prohibiting the teaching of negroes she was twice arrested, but by the interposition of her mother's guardian, Major King, a license was granted her by Mayor McBeth to keep a school for free colored persons, on condition that no slaves should be admitted to it, and that a white person should be always in the room during school hours. She complied with these conditions, hiring a white woman to sit in the school-room with her sewing, and kept the school open till the capture of the city.

I am told that the free negroes, as distinguished from the freed people, still cultivate a feeling of exclusiveness, and, among other modes of displaying it, still send their children to private schools. Whether or not their action in that particular is justified by any superiority of the private over the public schools, I cannot say.

All the teachers in Charleston, as well as in the State at large, are paid by the New York National Relief Association, or by the New England Freedmen's Aid Commission. The buildings now occupied by the schools belong to the State, and as these may soon be taken away from the Bureau, the Superintendent of Education proposes soon to solicit contributions from

Northern men in order that he may build a house for the exclusive use of the freedmen.

In the whole State there are now forty-eight schools in operation, attended by six thousand pupils, and taught by one hundred and eight teachers, of whom eighty are from the North and twenty-eight are Southerners. In Columbia, Greenville, Orangeburg, Summerville, Georgetown, and on the coast islands schools are already established; they are in process of organization at Camden, Florence, Darlington, Sumter, and Cheraw, and it is confidently hoped that before the spring at least one teacher will be at work in each county town. The superintendent, after an extended tour through the State, reports the white people as not only indifferent but entirely opposed to the educating of the negroes, and is of opinion that outside of Charleston no colored school could be maintained a month after the Federal troops are withdrawn.

The South Carolina Freedmen's Savings Bank was founded at Beaufort in August, 1864. The colored soldiers then in the Department of the South were receiving large bounties and good pay, and many of them being unused to the possession of money were in the habit of spending it wastefully and improvidently. For example, after a regiment had been paid off it was not unusual to see a soldier wearing two watches and two chains, and some one of the little jewelry shops at Beaufort or Hilton Head would sell as many as seventy, more or less, worthless watches in one day. It was not uncommon for the officers of colored regiments to borrow their men's money and embark it in some land scheme or other profitable business. If the creditors of these officers chanced to die, they very likely left no heirs, for many of them were refugees from hostile States and without families. It was proved that the captain of one company, after the paymaster had made his rounds, sent his orderly sergeant on a borrowing mission to every man in his command. It was in the interest of the soldiers, therefore, that General Saxton established his bank. Two gentlemen of his staff, who served without salary, were designated as managers of the business, with orders to receive deposits of five cents and upwards. Interest at the rate of 5 per cent. was to be paid on all sums exceeding \$25, and when dividends should be declared the profits that had accrued were to be divided among persons who had deposited \$25 and upwards. All investments were to be made in United States securities. General Saxton issued a circular explaining the objects of the institution, telling the freedmen, "You will thus have a secure place of deposit for your money, where it will yield you a fair rate of interest, and will at the same time indirectly aid in sustaining the Government which is doing so much for you." Deposits at once came in rapidly, and the enterprise seems to have been very successful. A circular issued on the 16th ult., when the bank was a little more than a year old, makes these statements: "On this day the actual deposits in the bank amounted to \$250,734 74, of which there had been paid out to depositors \$73,690 71. After paying all expenses, the total assets, consisting of United States securities and cash on hand, amount to \$179,066 20, showing a profit to the bank of about \$2,000 over and above all liabilities and expenditures."

The funds remaining in the bank on the 16th of October have been turned over to the National Freedmen's Savings and Trust Company, and I believe the sum thus entrusted to that corporation forms by far the larger part of its capital.

The depositors in the bank at Beaufort were nearly all soldiers. The laborers there deposited very little; for, while they had less money than the men serving in the army, their expenses were very much greater, and less pains was taken to inform them of the nature of the institution. Their small savings were usually concealed in their cabins.

The Freedmen's Bureau was organized in this State by the appointment of General Saxton as Assistant Commissioner. General Ely, at Columbia, is an acting Assistant Commissioner, and is subject to General Saxton's orders. Subordinate to these officers, there are officials of two classes thinly scattered up and down over the State; in several of the districts there are civilians, called agents of the Bureau, who have no other duty than to attend to the government and protection of the negroes. The limited fund at the disposal of the Commissioner has kept the number of such agents very small. The great bulk of the colored population where it can be reached by the Bureau at all is in the charge of sub-assistant commissioners. These are military officers who, in addition to their strictly military functions as commanders of garrisons and the like, are expected to carry into effect the orders of the Assistant Commissioner. For this additional duty, as may be supposed, they have little liking and little fitness of any sort. At headquarters it is said of them that a majority of the sub-assistants cannot be trusted to do justice between the laborers and the planters; they invariably range themselves on the side of the latter.

It is beyond a doubt that during the past year many of these officials

have permitted the planters to tie their laborers up by the thumbs, to throw them into confinement, and to ill-use and oppress them in many ways. I hear of plantations where negroes have been compelled to work throughout the season under a contract which gave them as wages only one-sixth of the crop. It is to be remembered that all planting this year was done late, and that there has been almost no attempt to raise anything more than a limited quantity of breadstuffs. As a consequence, therefore, of the mistaken policy pursued in many districts, there are large numbers of negroes, of whom some are newly discharged from their places, who have only four or five bushels of corn for the support of their families through the winter. Many of them have even less than that. An agent of the Bureau in Beaufort district says in his report for the month of November: "The pressure upon this office for assistance for those who have spent the summer far up in the State, laboring for Mr. Inscot, Robert Barnwell, and others, who have now sent them here without any pay for the summer's work or provisions for the winter, is immense."

Doubtless, an officer of the greatest ability and activity, with the best intentions, would find it almost impossible, with the means now in his control, to protect all the negroes in one of these wide-extending districts.

Every agent of the Bureau is required to make a monthly report of affairs in his district to the Assistant Commissioner, and he, in turn, at the end of each month sends a concise abstract of the reports to the office of the Commissioner at Washington. The brief for October I have been permitted to see, and I make some extracts from it as perhaps showing more fully than it could be done in any other way some features of the present condition of the freedmen in this State. Reports had been received from eleven districts only, and those for the most part situated on the coast and along the Georgia line. "In the interior of the State," says the report, in conclusion, "where military force cannot readily reach the plantations, affairs are in general worse. It is difficult to reach the murderers of colored people, as they hide themselves and are screened by their neighbors."

Of Edgefield district it is said: "Several affidavits have been received of cruelties practised here. One freedman with two males and one female children were stripped naked, tied up, and whipped severely, threats of murder being made if complaint was made to the military. Another man was whipped severely with a stick and cut over the eye with a knife, and, as he ran away to escape from their cruelty, was shot at. A woman was severely whipped and carried off to jail, and, as she has disappeared, fears are entertained that she has been murdered. Two children were severely whipped and their mother driven off the plantation without any pay for work done."

In Georgetown district "it is reported that the planters, with assistance of the military, compel the freedmen to do work not called for under their contracts. On one plantation a freedman was twice beaten over the head with a stick and was refused rations."

In Beaufort district, "the officer at Beach Branch is reported as assisting the planters in acts of injustice and cruelty to the freedmen. In one case, a woman and her children were brutally whipped and driven off the place after the crop was harvested. Two men were tied up four feet from the ground and left in that condition more than two hours."

In Anderson district, "one man was shot and killed in presence of his wife, who begged for his life. Two other men were tied up, cruelly flogged, then shot (and, it is believed, killed, as the men have disappeared), while the wife of one of the men received fifty lashes."

The report, in speaking of the Barnwell district, after detailing six cases of negro whipping, and several other outrages that took place during October, goes on to say, that "two freedmen were whipped by their master, who took them to the commanding officer at Barnwell, who told him to whip them again, as they had not had half enough. This officer is reported to pay no attention to the complaints of freedmen. With such an officer in power it is hardly possible to protect them from abuse. Lawlessness on the part of the freedmen must be looked for under such circumstances. It is reported that a band of sixty of them are organized for the purpose of robbery. The leader of it and three men had been captured, and one escaping was shot, and afterwards died of the wound."

Of this district it is also stated that "a regular pass and patrol system (such as was in vogue at the time of slavery) is said to exist."

In Darlington, Williamsburg, and Marion districts, "the reports show in general a better state of affairs than elsewhere. The freedmen are self-supporting, and there is little or no conflict between the two races, though there are individual cases of injustice and dissatisfaction. Many of the planters are not making contracts for the ensuing year, as they are waiting to see what legislation may be made in regard to labor."

Most of these statements are based on affidavits made by the injured parties, and by witnesses of the occurrences. When the report of a case calling for

the arrest and trial of any man reaches the office of the Assistant Commissioner, it is necessarily referred to the military commander of the department. It has been usual in this State for the general in command to refer it back to the commander of the district named in the report. Then it is referred by him to the subordinate officer stationed nearest to the place where the outrage is alleged to have occurred. Hitherto it has been found that when this stage was reached the matter ended. Without the co-operation of the military the Commissioner is quite powerless to bring any criminal to justice or to carry the orders of the Bureau into effect.

Just at the cessation of hostilities, in May last, several negroes living on a plantation in Clarendon district refused to work any longer under the old system. They were full of uncertainty as to the future, and they were very much dissatisfied with their overseer, a man by the name of White. Six of them, therefore, left home one morning in a body. White and several of his neighbors pursued them with dogs, and captured them all. One was shot in attempting to escape; the other five were at once hung by the roadside. For a month after this event the people on the plantation remained at home, but some of them at last made their way to Charleston and Kingstree. Affidavits were taken, and complaint was formally made, but the crime has not yet been punished. Perhaps an offense of so great magnitude, and so easily susceptible of complete proof, could nowhere in the State pass unquestioned at the present time; yet this I think by no means quite certain.

It is probable that during the coming winter there will be a good deal of suffering among the freedmen for want of food and clothing. Even more distress is to be apprehended in the Gulf States than in South Carolina. At present, however, less food is given away by the Government than at any time since Johnston's surrender. The money value of the rations delivered to destitute freedmen in Georgia and South Carolina during the month of October was \$29,672 09, which is less than half the value of those issued in those two States in the month of September, and in September the value was not so great as in the preceding months. Throughout the four years of war very few masters gave their people the customary supply of clothing, and the destitution in this particular is, therefore, not wholly of recent growth.

But little, I should say, is to be hoped for from State action in these matters. The negro code has been framed, and if that fails to be applied it seems unlikely that anything else will be attempted. I observe a marked change in the feeling and language of the people; they seem much less confident than they were three or four weeks ago that the management of their affairs is to be at once entrusted to their own legislation. These apprehensions affect their actions as well as their words. Mr. Wm. Whaley, a candidate for Congress in the Second district, was beaten at the polls by Mr. Aiken and by General Stephen Eliot, "The hero of Fort Sumter," as he was styled in the electioneering placards. About one half of the voters took no part in the election. In Barnwell district, a very large county, Mr. Whaley says that the polls were not opened. Since the day of election his friends, he says, have come to him by scores and excused themselves for voting for his opponent: "The delegation was not going to be admitted, and they thought it just as well to let Gov. Aiken stand in the lobby as to let him." In Orangeburg and other districts there was the same indifference, and from the newspapers I might quote many expressions of the despondency that has recently stolen over the community.

ENGLAND.

LONDON, Nov. 25, 1865.

THE Ministry still remains incomplete. Of the reasons why the process of completion has proceeded so tardily, the outer public knows little or nothing. Indeed, the aristocratic aspect of our mixed government has never been more apparent to me than in the secrecy with which the negotiations for the reconstruction of the Palmerston administration have been conducted. Of course, if the nation happened to be eager for information on the subject, that information would be forthcoming. Such changes as there are, are undoubtedly in a liberal direction. In the first place Sir Robert Peel leaves the post of Under-Secretary of Ireland. Seldom, I think, was there ever a more completely *manquée* career than that of the member for Tamworth. Owning a name dear to Englishmen, the possessor of a large fortune, gifted with considerable talents and with keen ambition, he might have risen to the highest posts in the political world. But somehow he had a fatal faculty for getting into scrapes, from which his friends had to extricate him, with much difficulty to themselves and with some damage to his own reputation. Sir Robert was always embracing the side of one or other of the rival factions in the sister kingdom with excessive ardor, and then deserting their cause with excessive promptitude. His last exploit was to go

into a personal altercation with a Dublin banker about the right to a seat in a railway car, which all but led to legal proceedings. He would have been thrown out by his colleagues long ago had it not been for the championship of Lord Palmerston. The late premier always prophesied that some day or other Sir Robert would make his mark. But hitherto this hope has not been realized; and I suspect, before long, he will join the Conservatives, and finally be the leader of a Palmerstonian secession from the ministerial ranks. His successor, Mr. Chichester Fortescue, is a pleasant, sensible Irish gentleman, whose chief distinction, perhaps, is, that he was married *en quatrièmes nocces* by Lady Waldegrave, the daughter of Braham, the great English singer. Mr. Kutt also retires from the post of Under-Secretary of the Board of Trade, and is replaced by Mr. Göschel, one of the members for the city. The new secretary is a man of very different calibre from the ordinary run of honorable members. The son of a German merchant, of Hebraic extraction, domiciled in England, he was brought up at Rugby and at Oxford, where he gained high honors and a great academical reputation. On leaving the university he did what is rare with English university men—he went into business. And, what is rarer still with men of that class, he succeeded brilliantly in trade, and acquired not only a large fortune, as a loan-monger, but a very high reputation as a man of high character and honesty. I happen to know that, at the time the Confederate loan was brought out, he was offered the privilege of introducing it on very favorable terms for himself. Though the transaction would, I believe, have been attended with very little if any risk, as far as his part was concerned, and would have put a great many thousands in his pocket, he declined, avowedly because he thought it was not an operation with which a high-minded man should be mixed up. His reputation stood him in good stead when he contested the city some two or three years ago. Though a very young and untried man, he won the seat, and during his short parliamentary career he made several speeches which earned him the attention of the public. At the last city election he was returned at the head of the poll, and his nomination to office was taken almost for granted. In politics, I should think he was a decided Liberal, with fewer prejudices than beset most English politicians; but his chief attention is devoted to finance, and I doubt his taking any very active part in purely political questions.

The most important, however, of the new appointments is that of Mr. William Forster to the Under-Secretaryship of the Colonies. If there is a man in the House who is a Radical, without being a democrat, it is the member for Bradford. A man of shrewd, hard common sense and generous instincts, he has far more influence with the House than Mr. Bright, with whom he agrees in politics. Far inferior to his leader in oratorical, probably also in mental, ability, he has a power of sympathizing with English tastes and feelings in which the member for Birmingham is strangely wanting. If you want to get a man to walk with you, there is no good in beginning your request by treading on his corns; and this is a truth of which Mr. Bright is never mindful and Mr. Forster is always. In the debates about America, the keen, logical arguments of the latter had more weight than the impassioned appeals of the former. Both of them did true service to the cause of freedom. Mr. Forster's father, a member of the Society of Friends, died many years ago while on an anti-slavery mission in Tennessee, and the son has always remained faithful to the anti-slavery creed. There are few men I am acquainted with whose desertion in office of the principles they had professed in opposition, would disappoint me more than if such should prove to be the case with the member for Bradford. I have reason to know he would not have accepted office unless he had believed the Ministry were prepared to deal with the question of reform. On the very eve of his appointment he delivered the most decided pro-reform speech to his constituents which has yet been made since the election of the new Parliament. I have no doubt that Earl Russell intends to introduce some kind of reform bill next session. But there are three points on which I entertain very strong doubts. First, whether the measure will be large enough to effect any real re-distribution of political power; secondly, whether it will be cordially supported by the Ministry; and thirdly, whether, even if so supported, it has any chance of being carried. No valid extension of the franchise is possible unless the country is excited about the matter; and, as yet, I can discover no sign of popular excitement.

My own conviction is that the idea of purely political reform has, to a great extent, lost its hold on the English masses. What is needed to move popular enthusiasm is some proposal of social reform; and, as yet, that is not forthcoming. The real curse of England is the poverty of the agricultural population and of the lower class of working-men, not their exclusion from the right of voting. It is possible the admission of the working-classes to the franchise would bring about the reforms needed to improve their condition. I believe myself this would be the case, and, therefore, I

desire reform. But I say candidly that if I thought the working-classes would remain what they are after being enfranchised, I should oppose any reduction of the suffrage. A case has occurred recently illustrating one of the darkest aspects of English life. A laborer called John Cross was tried before the magistrates of Wimborne, in Dorsetshire, for stealing a hurdle valued at sixpence. For this offence he was sentenced to a fortnight's hard labor in goal. In the course of the evidence it came out that this man, who had worked for one master for four-and-twenty years, and was reckoned a superior laborer, only earned eight shillings a week, on which he had to house, support, clothe, and shelter a sick wife and seven helpless children. It was in order to keep his children from starving of cold that he stole the hurdle in order to light a fire. One of the London papers took the matter up, and forthwith subscriptions came in on every side in shillings and pennies till a sum was raised in a couple of days which will place John Cross in a position to emigrate with his children to some of our colonies, where labor is not a drug in the market. Unfortunately, John Cross is only a type of hundreds of thousands of his fellow-countrymen.

DECEMBER 2.

Our papers will tell you what there is to be said about Jamaica. The subject is a very painful one for an Englishman to write upon at all. I have no sympathy with the habit of mind which causes some persons to assume, invariably, that their own country is in the wrong; and I would feign hope against hope that there is more justification for the bloody vengeance we have inflicted upon the black population in Jamaica than would appear at first sight. As yet not one word of evidence has been forwarded to prove the existence of any conspiracy at all; and, strange to say, Governor Eyre and his colleagues appear to be totally unaware of the necessity for communicating such evidence at all. I am glad to say that the last intelligence from Jamaica has created a most painful impression throughout England, and the attacks in the Governor's speech against the Baptist missionaries have excited the indignation of the "religious" world to an unprecedented degree. My own impression is that, quite apart from any other considerations, the political pressure which the Dissenting communities can bring to bear upon all borough members of Parliament will ensure decisive action on the part of the Government. Governor Eyre will probably be recalled, and a commission of enquiry sent out to Jamaica. Such reparation, God knows, is slight enough. I wish I felt sure it would be granted. In spite of the experience of the last five years, I never realized till now how strongly our educated classes were imbued with a sort of sneaking pro-slavery sympathy. Mr. Carlyle has much to answer for; his influence as a teacher, I am thankful to say, is dying out; he has outlived his literary reputation; and the public has grown weary of his tricks of writing, his constant repetitions, and his stilted style. But the influence of his servile worship of brute force, his brutal contempt for the weak, and his preposterous deification of the one duty of work, has survived his fame. His twaddle about Black Quashee, the "eternal veracities," and the rest of the dreary jargon in which slavery was really held up to honor and abolitionism to contempt, have left an evil leaven in the minds of the present generation of our governing classes. Possibly I write too strongly, but then I feel strongly on this matter. If you could see, as I have seen for years, how deep the sophistries to which Carlyle gave utterance have worked their way into the minds of educated Englishmen, you would, I think, share my feelings. In my judgment, the author of the "Latter-Day Pamphlets" has done as much to pervert the moral sense of his countrymen as he has to degrade their language. More than that I cannot say. To any man endowed with the faculty of reasoning logically, there is something inexpressibly irritating at the sort of arguments which are put forward at the present moment to justify the massacre of the blacks in Jamaica, and which were put forward to defend the cause of the Confederacy. Mr. Henry Kingsley, for instance, writes to the newspapers as the champion of muscular Christianity, to say that the wholesale slaughter of the negroes must be right, because it was sanctioned by Governor Eyre; and because Governor Eyre distinguished himself as an Australian explorer. You may possibly have read the singularly vivid and picturesque account of Eyre's explorations in the Australian deserts, which appeared lately in "Macmillan's Magazine." There is no question, if the account is true, that Eyre is a brave man personally; there is still less question that he is as obstinate as a mule. But to say that a brave, wrong-headed, obstinate man cannot be guilty of gross cruelty, is a statement so absurd that it could not be safely made out of the columns of an English newspaper. Yet this is what Mr. Kingsley and the papers which espouse the pro-slavery side in this discussion call on us to believe. Just in the same way we were lectured by the same authorities, and assured that secession must be right, because Lee was a gentleman, and Stonewall Jackson a man after Carlyle's own heart.

So much for a subject about which I hardly know how to write fairly and calmly. In home matters the political news of the week is small, though important. After many hesitations the Gladstone-Russell Ministry has finally resolved to stand or fall on the question of reform. A bill is to be introduced for the extension of the franchise, and this bill will be made a cabinet measure. Very little is known as yet as to the details of this measure, probably because very little is determined. The common impression is that the Government will recommend a six-pound franchise for the boroughs, and a ten-pound one for the counties. Mr. Bright has taken occasion, at a reform meeting in Blackburn, to express his confidence in the Ministry, and in the sincerity of their political professions. From this fact, and from Mr. Forster's acceptance of office, it is evident that the ministerial programme has met with the approval of the Manchester party. Their support almost involves the secession of the aristocratic Whigs from the ministerial ranks; and it may be doubted whether, in a parliamentary point of view, Earl Russell has not purchased the alliance of the Radicals at too dear a price. As I think I have said before, it will prove impossible even to get the House of Lords, not to mention the House of Commons, to consent to any important reduction of the franchise, except under the pressure of great popular excitement. It is quite possible the voters may grow excited about reform between this time and next February. All I can say is that, so far, there are no symptoms of any widespread agitation on the question of reform.

The proposal of a reform bill will, it is understood, be announced by the Queen herself. For the first time since the death of the Prince Consort Her Majesty will open Parliament in person. And this first state appearance in public is understood to be the signal for the resumption of the ordinary court life which has been so long suspended. It may be difficult for you to understand what practical difference it makes whether the Queen performs her state duties in person or by deputy. As a matter of fact, the difference is considerable; and the news of the Queen's return to public life has been very gladly received by the country. Possibly our enthusiasm would have been greater, if it had not been intimated that the first act of the Queen on her re-appearance would be to request a grant from Parliament for the dowry of her third daughter. It is now officially announced that the Princess Helena is shortly to be married to Prince Christian of Augustenburg, the younger brother of the unlucky prince who still calls himself Frederick VII. of Schleswig-Holstein-Sonderburg-Augustenburg. The bridegroom elect is an officer in the Prussian service, and is the poorest of German princelets. His poverty, however, is his chief recommendation in the eyes of the English court. The Queen, it is said, is extremely anxious to keep her favorite daughter at home, and has therefore married her to the poorest of the princes whose name appears in the "Almanach de Gotha," in the hope that, having neither fortune nor position nor prospects, he may take up his abode in England. It is an odd fact that the three parties to the endless Schleswig-Holstein difficulty have each a representative amongst the members of our royal family. Denmark is represented by the Princess of Wales, Prussia by the Princess Royal, and the duchies by the Princess Helena. It is to be hoped the family may prove a happy one in spite of this state of discord. Rumor, however, says that the chief motive of the Queen's re-appearance before the public is dissatisfaction, whether well or ill founded, with the manner in which her place has been supplied by the Prince and Princess of Wales.

In social topics our chief interest has been centered in the great "bread-and-butter" controversy. A number of the students at Christ Church College, Oxford, have made the notable discovery that they are charged thirty per cent. above the market price for their bread and butter, which is supplied to them by the college authorities, and have written indignant letters to the *Times* to protest against the over-charge. The papers, being devoid of home news, have taken the question up, and we are, in consequence, presented with an active controversy as to whether bread can be had at Oxford and Cambridge for twopence or twopence farthing. To my mind there is something *infinitesimal petit* about the whole controversy. Unless undergraduates are altered very much from what they were in my time, a saving of a penny a day on their bread and butter would make no appreciable difference in the amount of their expenditure. As long as the collegiate system is maintained, the cost of living for students must always be high; and I have very little sympathy for reformers who refuse to recognize patent facts, and hope to unite economy with the advantages incident to a high rate of expenditure. At present both Oxford and Cambridge are admirable training schools for young men belonging to the upper classes. The tuition imparted there is not great, but the genuine advantages of the society to be found there are very considerable. The universities are not national academies, nor are they intended to be so either by the tutors or by the undergraduates. If it is thought expedient to throw open the universities to men

without money, the method of so doing is as simple as possible. Let students be allowed to live as they like and how they like, and, making allowance for the difference of prices in England and Germany, living may be made as cheap at Oxford as it is at Heidelberg or Bonn. But, then, the system of college life and discipline must be abandoned; and this is exactly what our university reformers have no idea of doing.

The other night we had, what is an unusual thing with us, a regular row at a public dinner. The occasion was the anniversary banquet of the London Scottish Hospital, an occasion when all the Scotch in London gather together. Dr. Norman Macleod, the editor of "Good Words," and one of the Queen's chaplains, was in the chair, and in his speech made some allusion to the part he has taken in protesting against extreme Sabbatarianism north of the Tweed. Forthwith some of the guests interrupted the chairman's speech with hisses and groans. Sabbatarians and anti-Sabbatarians engaged in personal conflict; and the whole dinner ended in a row which I should have called Irish had not all the combatants been canny Scotch.

THE ITALIAN QUESTION.

PARIS, December 1.

THERE is hardly a cause in Europe which deserves as much sympathy and moral support as the cause of Italy. The Italian war has been the best card played by the Second Empire. It could not fail to throw momentarily on its side the liberal forces of France and Europe. The first great war of Napoleon III., the Crimean war, had only had for its object to break the old alliance of the great powers of Europe against France which had been signed at Vienna after the fall of Napoleon I. It had more of a dynastic than of a national character. France had no real interest in destroying or diminishing the power of Russia; but the new ruler of France had great interest in gaining the alliance of England, in obliging Queen Victoria to visit him and to receive his visits. The Crimean war gave him a sort of respectability which had first been refused to the conspirator of the 2d December. This was distinctly understood by M. de Tocqueville, who wrote, the 20th of January, 1856, to his friend Odilon Barrot, these remarkable lines:

"Russia will come out of this war humbled, but about as strong as she was at the beginning. She will keep her position in the Black Sea and in Asia. Nicolaiew will take the place of Sebastopol. Russia will be, all the same, the hope of the Slavish and Greek races. She will, all the same, penetrate the heart of civilized Europe by Poland. And the day is perhaps near when, the union formed against her being dissolved, she will be found as threatening as before."

These prophetic words have been fully illustrated by the attitude taken by Russia against England and France during the last Polish rebellion.

If the Crimean war was evidently (and the proofs of it may be found in Kinglake's history, so remarkable in the diplomatic point of view, so weak and unjust in the military point of view) a dynastic enterprise rather than a national one, the same could not be said of the Italian war, at least at its beginning. The alliance of France was offered to a country fighting for its liberty against a foreign tyranny. But the price of the alliance of a despot is always too high. When Cavour struck his bargain with the French Emperor at Plombières, he thought that he would be quits with his ally after abandoning to him the province of Savoy, the cradle of the illustrious house of his own master, and by giving to the cousin of the Emperor, Prince Napoleon, the hand of a daughter of Victor Emanuel. He fully expected that Italy would in return be made free from the Alps to the Adriatic. He was more anxious to deliver Venice and to chase the Austrians from Italy than to annex to the northern kingdom the kingdom of the Two Sicilies. Above all, he did not mean to give a new master to Italy in place of the old ones, to make his own sovereign a vassal and a dependent of France, to bind the new establishment he was about to create in Italy to the uncertain and precarious fate of the second French Empire.

But it is not always easy to foresee the distant consequences of an act. Cavour did not anticipate that after having called all the Italians to the deliverance of Italy from the Alps to the Adriatic, in his famous proclamation of Milan, the Emperor would stop before the quadrilateral of Mantua and leave Venetia in the hands of Austria. The peace of Villafranca has left Italy in a most dangerous and abnormal position. Cavour tried to regain in the south of Italy what he could not gain in the north. The expedition of Garibaldi in the Two Sicilies was the consequence of the disappointment which the Italian cause had suffered in the valley of the Po. Instead of the old war-cry of Italian patriotism, which had been *le war to Austria*, a new one was adopted, which is "Italian unity." But the realization of Italian unity was not possible without the tolerance of Napoleon III., and he became, in consequence, the ruler of Italy and of its destinies. He left the door of Italy open to Austria, and his diplomacy only helped the

unitarian scheme in proportion to the subservience he found in the Italian ministers and statesmen. Cavour alone could have successfully resisted this perpetual, slow, and almost irresistible pressure. He would have found the means of putting obstacles in the path of his formidable ally; but, after he died, nobody was found capable of preserving at the same time the French alliance and the dignity of Italy. The spirit of servility and of hypocrisy which has pervaded the political world in France, found a new province in Italy. The Venetian question, which is the most vital question for Italy, was thrown into the background, and the forces of Italy were spent on the reorganization of the Two Sicilies and on the difficulties of the Roman question. The dangerous position kept by Austria in Venetia obliged the newly formed kingdom to make enormous armaments, quite out of proportion with its means. This necessity was also imposed upon it by the hope of winning new favors from the French Emperor, by offering to him a large auxiliary army in case of a war between France and some other power. I have no doubt that if the French Emperor chose to ask to-morrow Victor Emanuel to lend him regiments for the Mexican war, they would be given to him without a moment's hesitation. At the time of the Polish rebellion the Italians were all ready to become our auxiliaries. Thus a feverish state is kept up in the nation by the perpetual prospect of a war out of the Italian boundaries as well as of a new war with Austria. The old Piedmontese army is being transformed into an Italian army, but the new recruits from Sicily and the Neapolitan provinces cannot be compared yet to the soldiers who fought at San Martino. Increased in numbers, the army has lost somewhat in *morale*, in homogeneity, in solidity. The work of consolidation of the new kingdom has entirely deranged the equilibrium of the Italian budget, owing to the great armaments made, to the creation of a navy, to the necessity of giving schools, roads, railways to the annexed provinces of Central and Southern Italy. Last year the deficit of the budget was equal to 400 millions of francs. This year the minister of finance, Sella, announces that it will equal 300 millions; and he sees no other way of meeting the dangers of the future than by re-establishing unpopular taxes, equally condemned by political economy and by the aversion of the people.

Is it to be wondered if, under the circumstances, the Italian ministry has been obliged to give up the idea of making Rome the capital of Italy? From Turin the capital has been transferred to Florence, and it was hoped Florence would only be an *étape* on the way to Rome. But the French Emperor did not intend to allow this consummation of Italian unity. By the convention of the 15th September, 1864, he obliged Victor Emanuel to promise not to invade the provinces left to the Pope. To be sure, he bound himself to evacuate the Papal territory in the course of two years, and this promise was interpreted by many Italians as an abandonment of the temporal power of the Papacy; but I doubt if this interpretation is correct. M. Drouyn de Lhuys has assured all the diplomatic agents of the Emperor, in an official note, that the Emperor does not intend to give up the Papal territory to Victor Emanuel; and in the French House, M. Rouher, in answer to M. Thiers, has repeated the same declaration. The Italian ministers were obliged to declare before the Italian Parliament that they did not mean to invade the territory left to Pío Nono, and that they would be faithful to every prescription of the convention of the 15th September. It is on account of this declaration, which betrayed too great a servility to the French Empire, that I attribute the character of the recent elections of Italy; out of four hundred members of the old Parliament only half have been returned, and the places of the defeated members, mostly professed friends of the administration, have been taken by new men, who have no ties with the ministry.

I do not wish to draw too gloomy a picture of Italy; but, if you have followed my reasoning, you must acknowledge that the financial and political difficulties of Victor Emanuel's government are almost overwhelming. They can be traced to three sources: to the presence of Austria in Italy, to the finances, and to the Roman question; but above all these, I do not hesitate to place the difficulties which arise from a forced and close alliance with an unscrupulous, selfish, and hypocritical despotism. Every cause must have its effect; it is impossible that Italy should reap the benefit of such an alliance without feeling any of its dangers; the very morality of history is involved in the attempt of the people which has thought it possible to win liberty with the aid of a tyrant. Nobody can deplore more than I do the dangers which threaten Italian unity and independence; but, at the same time, I am not so blind that I cannot see that these dangers could have been foreseen long ago, and are not without a reason. I am of those who think that a free France ought to give its unconditional support to young Italy; but all men are not impassioned, and I must acknowledge that, by winning the French Emperor to their cause, the Italians have alienated many Frenchmen. The fall of the French Empire would, perhaps, involve

the fall of the new order of things in Italy; at any rate, the French liberals would find great difficulty in enlisting the services of a new government in favor of a government which has been, and is, a mere instrument in the hands of Napoleon III.

A. L.

PRESENTS.

"GIFTS" is a better English word. But we beg leave to use the Latinist word, because we believe that gifts and presents are different things, and because it is of presents that we propose to treat. Are there any two words in the English language which are wholly synonymous? Probably not, at least in common everyday use. But presents are very everyday matters indeed, especially about this season of the year; and we use both the words in the sense in which conversation employs them. Gifts, then, are things given for the purpose (real or ostensible) of benefiting the recipient. Presents are supposed to act both ways, and benefit the giver as well. They are gifts which a father gives his son to support him or help him in business; and they are gifts which we give to beggars, and they are gifts which God gives us. Do any of the poets talk of nature's presents to man? no, but of her gifts. "Heaven's last, best gift" is better as an address to one's wife and certainly more Miltonic than "heaven's last, best present" would have been. But those are presents and not gifts that we give each other at Christmas time, even those which parents give children, for the giving is mutual. A gift may disguise itself as a present, but disproves no rule by doing so. If a young lady's papa gives her a cheque, she gives him a pair of slippers; it is an interchange of *presents*, after all. When we are soliciting or expecting favors—when we go a-courting, for instance—we make presents. When we would express gratitude we send a present. Society does not recognize wedding *gifts*. Even if the young lady's papa comes on the carpet again and gives her a house, it is a wedding *present* still. Wait till he marries again and see if it is n't. In all these cases—Christmas presents, wedding presents, presents of gratitude, presents in the way of business, presents in acknowledgment of other presents—the giver has himself in view, confessedly. It is done, as he tacitly acknowledges, not to help the person he gives to so much as to express his own feelings. You sent that young lady friend of your sister a big *bonbonnière* that Mallard charged you twenty-five dollars for—eh? well, that was done, probably, not because you thought that the young lady's constitution required French bonbons, but because you wanted her to feel, while you were n't ready to say, how warm a regard you felt for your sister's friend. It was to "put yourself on record" that you put those greenbacks into an eatable and tempting form. Possibly you may send some more, and some bouquets and gloves, in the same direction; but, if so, it will be because you have favors to ask, or think you may have, and wish to accumulate items on the credit side of your account.

Now, it has often been remarked that Americans are extremely fond of giving presents. The American Christmas is principally an occasion for giving them. The American wedding is an institution of American devising, with its array of presents to the bride. The donation parties of New England parishes are, perhaps, of the nature of gifts (gift-enterprises would be a name expressive of the amount of respect we feel for them), but the numerous tokens of respect and regard which our clergymen receive at odd times, and the immense number of friendly remembrancers which business-men exchange, are presents all. This last matter of presents passing among business men, continually and not very favorably surprises business men from other lands.

But, in truth, it is inevitable and necessary that we should give presents. We are, of all people, the most disposed to "put ourselves on record." We talk much, not for the purpose of convincing the opponent, but for the purpose of stating our own views. Our stump-speaker cares principally to address people of his own way of thinking, that they may see how thorough a partizan he is. We cultivate newspaper literature, not the persuasive, but the aggressive, caring and hoping for no success in convincing the other party, but aiming to stand right with our own. So the giving of presents, as a pleasant and easy way of expressing one's feelings, is naturally popular with the people who are so unreserved in that expression. A reserved Englishman buys of you and sells to you for years, and is very desirous that you should get no idea from anything in his actions or manner whether he likes you personally or not. But an American cannot have dealings long with a man without longing to speak his mind and express his personal feelings, and so, if his feelings are friendly, he sends in a present on some favorable occasion to speak for him.

And as it is natural that the Americans should give presents frequently,

so it is natural that they should give handsome and carefully selected presents, and make a great ado about the choice and presentation. That they *do* these things there can be no denial in anybody's mind—at Christmas time. We have intimated our view that these presents are not wholly unselfish. But the custom has our hearty sympathy, for all. It does not pretend to be wholly unselfish. It is a delightful custom, this of mutual expressions of regard, and deserves encouragement. Presents, generally, are delightful to receive, and the giving them is an unmingled pleasure and a noble one, because capable of infinite refinement. All the delicacy of feeling and refinement of fancy and tact and shrewdness and close observation that one is capable of can be used to good purpose in the giving of presents. We know nothing more enjoyable, among minor social matters, than the right choosing of presents, small or great, and the fitting them to those for whom they are intended.

There is one phenomenon attending the yearly or occasional transfer of presents which has often caused remark. Every one has noticed the extraordinary worthlessness of the "articles suitable for presents" which every returning holiday season offers in new abundance. There are many little things which do not pretend to be useful, and which the world is at last finding out are not ornamental, which would have no market but for the annual fever which sets in about the first of December. There is a large class of books, of no intrinsic value whatever, but which take precedence of all other books when Christmas time draws near, and which ought to be called not "gift books," but present books. As we write, the best-lighted tables in our great bookstores are stripped of their seemingly covering of books of fair average value, and are crowded with folios and quartos in costly bindings, and containing the least amount of actual worth that will do to bind up and ask money for.

This disposition to give presents of no value seems at first sight a ridiculous tendency enough, and would give us a fine chance to abuse our day and generation if we were so minded. But, absurd as some of its manifestations are, the original feeling is a proper one enough. The present is, indeed, to have no practical use, for it is not to add to the physical wealth of the recipient that it is meant; but presents are always intended to be beautiful. Their main idea is that they shall bear witness to thought and care on the part of the donor. The expression of the donor's admiration or gratitude is complete or not according to the thought and taste manifested in his selection. If one receives a present that is commonplace and inappropriate, bought at a shop where he knows there were thousands like it, and not especially suited to his taste or position, he does not feel that he has been very highly honored. All presents, then, are meant to be beautiful; if they fail in being so it is because the donor failed to find anything beautiful, or could not recognize it when found. And all presents are meant to be, in some way, unusual and rare.

Flowers, for instance, are always in place as a present—the most universally applicable of all. Emerson (*vivat ille qui ante nos nostra dixit!*) has shown why they are so; because they are an acknowledgment that a grain of beauty weighs down all the utilities in the world. In cities, moreover, and generally when out of season, they argue care and a willingness to take trouble on the part of the giver of the present; for which reason the tight bouquets that the florists sell are certainly less worthy presents than the basket one has arranged in person.

In fact, the *individual* look about a present—the look as if the giver, and he alone of all men, could have given it—is the best look a present can have. It should be so evidently an emanation from the actual donor that his name need not, for practical purposes, be attached. Here we find Emerson before us again, and are told that presents should be a part of one's self. We agree heartily with this dictum in the sense in which it was meant. Thus it is not a picture only that an artist can give which will be a part of himself; he can have a book bound after a design of his own; he can use his trained judgment to pick the only beautiful bronze of a lot; he can buy cheap brown or buff earthen candlesticks and paint them with his own hands till they are more beautiful than the costliest porcelain. As for the business man, in this as in many other walks of life, he must use the money that he has instead of the leisure and skill that he has not; but he can use it well. There will be one thing only in the great city exactly appropriate to go from him to such a friend; it is his business to find it and get it at whatever cost; advertise for it, if necessary. A person who really enjoys giving presents will watch and wait; will keep a memorandum-book for the purpose of recording wishes hinted at or freely spoken; will draw inferences from what he sees and hears of pursuits and tastes and fancies; and will lay in his Christmas presents at any time during the year when he can best get what he wants.

Literature.

LITERARY NOTES.

A NEW weekly journal will be commenced with the first week of the new year by the house of Messrs. Ticknor & Fields, of Boston. These gentlemen already wield the destinies of one quarterly and two monthly journals, so that they bid fair to become as conspicuous in the periodical world as in the department of *belles lettres* publishing. Their new venture is entitled *Every Saturday: a Journal of Choice Reading*. Its contents will be mainly selected from the best English and Continental magazines, not entirely excluding, however, original matter from American sources. It will be under the charge of a gentlemen well known in the poetical literature of the day, Mr. T. B. Aldrich, who leaves New York for Boston in order to undertake the duties of the editorial post. The general appearance of *Every Saturday* will be modelled on the well-known *Chambers's Journal*. It will contain thirty-two large octavo pages, and be furnished to subscribers for five dollars per annum.

—The Early English Text Society, recently mentioned in a late number, has appointed as its agents in America Messrs. G. P. Philes & Co., of Nassau Street, who will receive subscriptions and furnish the publications of the society. The society look for aid and sympathy from this country, and unless the prevailing taste for old English literature is merely an affectation and a fleeting fashion, it must obtain both, as never before were the means of acquiring books of the kind it offers put at so easy a rate. A new "Dictionary Series" will be commenced next year with a reprint of the excessively rare work, the first rhyming dictionary known—"Manipulus Vocabularium: A Dictionary of English and Latin Words, necessary for Scholars that want Variety of Words, and for such as Use to Write in English Metre. By Peter Levens. London, 1570." One or two a year of these rare old *word-books* or *vocabularies* of the language will be given, till all are printed. They are all excessively scarce, as they were, no doubt, actually used up in each generation, and copies were rarely thought worthy of preservation in contemporary libraries, although now their value in testifying to the ancient colloquial usages and progressive advance of the language can hardly be overrated. This series will not interrupt the other issues of the society, consisting of hitherto unpublished poems, romances, etc.

—The remarkable success of Mr. Lecky's "History of the Spirit of Rationalism in Europe" has naturally led to enquiries as to his literary antecedents, his history having no marks of a first work, but rather exhibiting the facility and freedom of a long-practised writer. No information, however, has been made public yet beyond what we derive from the author himself when he states that he had endeavored to trace the causes of the deplorable condition of Ireland in a book called "The Leaders of Public Opinion in Ireland." He omits to give any information respecting the publication of this book. It does not appear in the "British Catalogue," so is probably yet unprinted. One of the similarities between the "History of Rationalism" and Buckle's "History of Civilization" that cannot fail to strike every one, is the wide extent of reading laid under contribution to furnish material for either work. Mr. Lecky appears to have read to more advantage, though perhaps he may be familiar with a smaller number of books, than Mr. Buckle, who seems to have devoured everything, down to the trash of circulating libraries, for the purpose of piling up quotations and so-called authorities to confirm things that no one ever doubted. Mr. Lecky's style possesses, to a degree unusual among English writers, the point and finish that characterize the best school of modern French authorship. It is not mentioned in a sense of disparagement that much of the learning and research we admire in his pages is drawn less from an acquaintance with the original springs of information than from a judicious use of the secondary sources made accessible by the scholars of France. With more than German industry, and a precision and vivacity all their own, they have scarcely left a character, an author, or an incident of the mediæval period without an "Essai" or an "Etude" that gives us in an attractive form the highest results of learning and literary application. When a writer speaks of "St. Denis the Areopagite" (instead of St. Dionysius), or refers to "Belgium" in the twelfth century (and a critical examination would detect many little peculiarities of the kind in the book), it shows the writer makes use of the labor of others who have preceded him and smoothed his path. With every exception, however, Mr. Lecky's work manifests a power of assimilating the results of study—his own or that of others—that gives it a very high place among English books of the present decade.

—A new phase of the famous English copyright law has appeared, according to accounts just received of a recent decision lately made in the suit commenced by Messrs. Sampson Low & Co. in vindication of their

right of property in a work by the American authoress, Miss Cummins. The authentic report of the decision has not yet reached us, but, according to a newspaper correspondent, it is declared that a copyright is personal property which an alien has as good a right to as any one else. There is no doubt that the tendency of the judges' rulings on the side issues that have come before them of late relating to the copyright question have been in this direction. It is a fact honorable to the breadth of view and liberality that should always distinguish the legal mind. If the doctrine stated above is allowed to prevail, the consequences will be in the highest degree favorable to American authors. Should the rage for their work still prevail in Europe, we must look for our millionaires among the "Orpheus C. Kerrs," "Artemus Wards," and "Petroleum V. Nasbys," who have hit on a style of composition that finds so hearty a response in John Bull's sturdy sense of the humorous. We shall soon have a detailed account of the proceedings that will give occasion for a return to the subject.

—Some weeks since an account was given of the preparations made to do honor to Professor Bopp, the founder of the science of comparative philology, on the anniversary of the fiftieth year since the appearance of the great work—the "Comparative Grammar of the Indo-Germanic Languages"—by which the scope of the science was determined and the rules for its cultivation and future progress defined with the hand of a master. One of the objects of the friends of Professor Bopp, it may be remembered, was, in addition to the testimonial presented to the professor, the collection of a fund to be named after him, and to be applied to the encouragement and furtherance of philological studies. A second circular issued by the committee shows that the proposal has met with a general and hearty response from the several European capitals, and that there is hardly a country in the world where some one is not engaged in forwarding the contributions of scholars for this end. We are happy to learn that America is not behind-hand. At the recent meeting of the American Oriental Society, held at New Haven, one hundred dollars were subscribed to the Bopp Fund by the members present, and the corresponding secretary of the society, Prof. Whitney, is authorized to receive and forward any miscellaneous contributions that may be made for the same object.

—The new edition of the "Cyclopedia of American Literature," by E. A. & G. L. Duyckinck, places in the market a book that has been long out of print, and has been in demand proportioned by the growing interest and importance of the subject it illustrates. The new matter that has been rendered necessary by the lapse of ten or twelve years since the original issue of the book has been incorporated into a supplement by the senior editor. A fine steel portrait of Mr. Geo. L. Duyckinck, his fellow-laborer, deceased since the first edition, is given in this supplement, with an appropriate tribute to his acquirements and character. Much skill in compression has been shown in the arrangement of the new matter, and though it would be impossible in any reasonable limits to do justice to the rapidly increasing "mob of gentlemen who write with ease," few literary celebrities of real importance are omitted. The publishers, C. Scribner & Co., take subscriptions for a limited edition, on large paper, that will form a magnificent book for the purposes of illustration, now so popular.

LECKY'S RATIONALISM.*

MR. LECKY'S book came to us so loudly heralded that, on taking it up and reading about midway into the first volume, we were sensible of a feeling of disappointment. We were prepared to find it a work of great philosophical pretension. This it is not. Mr. Lecky is not a profound *savant*. He is not surpassingly eminent as a thinker on fundamental principles of ethics, metaphysics, or social science. But he is something which, in our speculative and theorizing times, is quite as good; he is an exceedingly intelligent, cultivated, and accomplished man, of quick and true perception, of boundless and well-digested reading, of swift and vigorous reasoning power, of singular liberality and candor. He is intellectual, and, at the same time, enthusiastic; broad without being shallow, and rapid without noise. A man of earnest convictions, he is entirely free from bigotry; a man whose mind is possessed by one controlling thought, there is about him no savor of the theorist or the doctrinaire. If he is not wonderful as a philosopher, as a historian he is almost faultless, and as a critic he is without peer. Mr. Lecky pays a brilliant tribute to Mr. Buckle as "a great writer, whose untimely death has been one of the most serious misfortunes that have ever befallen English literature, and whose splendid genius, matured by the most varied and extensive scholarship, has cast a flood of

light upon many of the subjects he is endeavoring to elucidate." But his own purpose in writing is so different from Buckle's that the habit of mentioning them together is wholly unwarranted. Buckle wrote with the deliberate intention to state and maintain a doctrine respecting the social progress of mankind. He had a theory of human development to promulgate, and in the portion of the general introduction to his great work which the public was permitted to see, he occupied himself mainly with laying down his fundamental dogma, that human affairs were rigidly controlled by law, and that the track of law ran undeviatingly along the line of practical knowledge. The influence of the moral sentiments on the movement of human affairs he reduced to the lowest point; the freedom of the human will he denied; and he sternly remanded to the sphere of effects most of the phenomena which have generally ranked among causes. He began, therefore, where Mr. Lecky ends; or, to speak more exactly, he assumed as established results what Mr. Lecky presents as the distant goal towards which modern speculation is obviously tending. The latter is a historian rather than a philosopher of history. The very feeble attempt to touch the problem of free will, in the preface, is almost the only interruption to the stream of narrative that bears us rapidly and charmingly over the whole field of European thought and life.

Not that the book before us is devoid of ideas. It is animated throughout by a vital idea which gave it birth, and which quickens every paragraph to the end; but the idea is too large and luminous to have the character or the effect of a dogma. It is in brief this: that the intellectual and social movements of mankind, as shown in history, are controlled by "certain tendencies or predispositions resulting from causes that are deeply imbedded in the civilization of the age, which create the movement, direct the stream of opinions with irresistible force in a given direction, and, if we consider only great bodies of men and long periods of time, exercise an almost absolute authority." Rationalism, by his definition, is a subtle spirit of thought, an unconscious mental bias, tendency, or principle, an undercurrent of reason, setting with general steadiness in one course, silently sapping the foundations of institutions, systems, laws, creeds, practices, which seemed to be firmly planted in the conviction and reverence of men, and powerfully but quietly compelling them to substitute natural for supernatural causes in explaining the occurrences of history, reason for authority in religion, and the natural conscience for arbitrary systems of ethics in social life.

How this intellectual movement is started we are not told, nor is it of consequence that we should be; the innate curiosity of the mind explaining it sufficiently. Mr. Lecky strikes the current while it is flowing, and describes the way in which it is swollen and accelerated. In this description he exhibits his breadth of view. He allows to every contribution its full value. Knowledge, thought, impulse, feeling, passion, genius, conscience, will, are accepted as agencies in creating and shaping the controlling spirit. The action of special circumstances and of individual characters is indicated. The cunning predispositions of the reason take up all the faculties of the mind, however crossing and recrossing, however colliding and clashing, and turn them with steady pressure towards the point whither it tends itself. The propelling cause lies beneath human consciousness, and the changes it effects by its unseen hand are often so hidden as to seem unaccountable. Vast alterations are wrought, in the face of all expectation and of all probability. One age finds it impossible to believe what another age found it impossible to disbelieve, and it can assign no reason for its scepticism save its presence and power. Arguments follow the causes they appear to lead, and are a part of the conquest that they seem to achieve. The reformer is a feature of his own reformation. The discoverer marches behind his discovery, and the victor does not so much gain his victory as announce it. This is Mr. Lecky's truth; not a new one, but a very vital and suggestive one, and one that is fairly unfolded and illustrated now for the first time. Of the extraordinary intellectual wealth of the book the volumes themselves can alone convey the least idea. We can only suggest the scope of the argument and the character of the illustrations.

In order, we presume, to exhibit his doctrine by the strongest light, Mr. Lecky applies it first to two subjects which once were sustained by authority and belief, which now are almost abandoned by authority and belief, and in regard to which the change from plenary assent to almost plenary dissent is to be explained only by the altered attitude which the human mind has unconsciously assumed under the influence of impressions not immediately connected with the subjects themselves. These are witchcraft and miracles, both treated under the general title, "The declining sense of the miraculous." Two happier illustrations of his idea could not have been chosen; for the material is copious, the facts are abundant and striking, the literature is marked, and the opposite poles of thought are abruptly brought into a surprising conflict. Mr. Lecky presents with great power the force

* "History of the Rise and Influence of the Spirit of Rationalism in Europe. By W. E. H. Lecky, M.A." D. Appleton & Co. Two vols.

and character of the popular belief in witchcraft; traces it to its sources; follows it in the turns of its history; lays bare its deep, strong roots in the prevailing religious credence, in the spiritual philosophy of centuries, in the Bible; shows how widely spread and how vital it was in the convictions of all men; how implicated it was in the radical faiths of Christendom. He details the arguments by which it was supported, and exhibits in masses the enormous accumulations of evidence that had gathered about it. The wisest men in Europe shared it; the ablest defended it; the best were zealous foes of all who assailed it. To disbelieve it seemed to be impossible. No man of any account disbelieved it for hundreds of years. Lord Bacon could not divest himself of it. Shakespeare accepted it, as did nearly all his most enlightened and gifted contemporaries. Sir Thomas Browne declared that those who denied the existence of witchcraft were not only infidels, but also, by implication, atheists. There were noble protests against the superstition, but they had no effect. Reginald Scott's "Discovery of Witchcraft," published in 1684, was bold, exhaustive, masterly, and popular; but in effect it was powerless. On a sudden the belief declined all over Europe, all over the world of mind. It was not argued down. There stood the piles of testimony unexamined; there were the trains of reasoning unexploded; there were the Bible texts unexplained; there were the parent dogmas far enough from being extirpated. To the expressed beliefs of the mightiest intellects no opinions of anything like equal weight were opposed. Demonstration was still mainly on one side; but people who could give no reasons for their incredulity were stubbornly incredulous. There existed the same reasons for earnestness of faith; but the earnestness could not be excited. Interest in the subject was dead.

The same fate awaited the promiscuous belief in miracles. For ages universal and inevitable, it has become limited and difficult. Once compelling the mind's assent, it now is retained only by the mind's compulsion. The miracles recorded as performed by the saints of the Romish Church were countless in number—the Bollandist collection containing about 25,000 lives, and each life is a tale of miracle from beginning to end—miracles attested and accredited by solemn oaths of witnesses. Even Edward Gibbon was staggered by the array of proof in their favor. "The implicit, indiscriminating acquiescence with which such narratives were once received has long since been replaced by a derisive incredulity. The very few modern miracles which are related are everywhere regarded as a scandal, a stumbling-block, and a difficulty." Why? Is scrutiny more keen than it was? It is far less keen. Is the evidence less? It is equal, to say the least. Have the books written against miracles surpassed in ability the books written in their defence? On the contrary, they have been fewer and feebler, written with less vigor, less learning, less definiteness of philosophical theory, less intensity of moral conviction. They have nearly all perished; but their cause is gained. It was virtually gained before they were produced, and their production was merely a sign that the human intelligence had silently moved on to another ground, where the natural and not the supernatural held sway.

Having in these crowded and terrible chapters exhibited the revolutionizing powers of rationalism, Mr. Lecky proceeds, in the third chapter, to illustrate the delicacy of its play in some departments of art, science, observance, and social usage. The matters touched on are numerous and infinitely varied; the movement of thought is too rapid to be followed here, and the changes are too sudden to be so much as indicated in so brief a notice; but they are neither too sudden nor too rapid to disturb the continuity of the writer's mental process. The impelling causes are noted with fine discernment. Each ripple of the movement flashes its particular gleam of light, and the closest student of the mediæval mind will get new material for thought from these rich pages. The influence on art of the revival of learning and the unveiling of classic models is especially worthy of attention as here described, cropping out in unexpected places.

From these attractive fields the argument passes to the history of persecution. The philosophy of persecution is given with admirable fidelity. The power of it is conceded. It is explained why in the great conflicts between argument and persecution the latter has been continually triumphant; and it is explained why, in defiance of authority, persecution has been disarmed of its power, and, by common consent, abandoned by the Catholic and the Protestant world. This is all interesting and instructive, but more instructive and interesting still are chapters fifth and sixth, which recount the triumphs of rationalism in the departments of politics and industry. Here the author, with careful step and keen observation, traverses the field which Buckle surveyed, but did not live to explore. The process by which theological interests were worked out of the ruling policies, and a secular principle was substituted for a theological one as the basis of authority, is laid open with fine analytical skill. Some of the brief episodes

particularly that at the theatre, are exceedingly curious. The influence of classical literature in encouraging the study of Roman law, in altering the type of heroism; the effect of increasing capital, of growing knowledge; the changes resulting from the invention of gunpowder and the bayonet; the rise and potency of political economy, are mentioned as among the secretly conspiring causes that overturned the old order and supplanted the ancient world for the modern. A few pages show how momentous was the change of opinion respecting usury; a few more describe the origin of the commercial spirit and the consequent revolution of society; a noble tribute to the Jews for service rendered in this department sheds an entirely new lustre on this portion of the story of progress, but before we have fairly accustomed ourselves to the unexpected attitude in which men and affairs are placed, the writer sweeps us on into considerations on the economical effect of luxury, the growth of diplomacy, the drama, the secularization of music, and twenty things beside, all fascinating as well as instructive.

A man could not write a book like this unless he cordially believed in the spirit whose operations he set himself to describe. Mr. Lecky is no doubt a rationalist in his own sense of the term; but we know it only from the atmosphere of sympathy with the movement he describes which pervades the volumes. He does not argue in favor of rationalism—he is its historian, not its advocate; and he does more than justice to the powers that oppose it. A liberal we should judge in religion, he touches the weak side of Voltaire and Rousseau, and brings out the strongest side of the Jesuits. Insisting on the regenerating influence upon the secularization of politics of the great heathen writers, he surpasses Guizot in his testimony to the splendid benefits conferred on mankind by the Church of Rome. Naturally inclined to attribute the progress of society to material and social agencies, he concedes more than any writer of his class to the transforming efficacy of the early Christian religion, especially in regard to the abolition of slavery, that much disputed point.

He is a liberal in politics, of course; but he has a good word for Louis Napoleon; and he has actually succeeded in finding an amiable trait in Nero. He has faith enough to be magnanimous towards his opponents, old and new.

Yet Mr. Lecky is no fanatic, nor even an enthusiast. He sees the dangers that are incidental to rationalism. He deplors eloquently the prevalence of the utilitarian spirit; the depreciation of the moral and religious faculty—"the noblest thing we possess; the celestial spark that is within us; the impress of the divine image; the principle of every heroism." He bewails the departure of enthusiasm, the decline of self-sacrifice, for which no material acquisitions are a fair compensation, and "looking back to the cheerful alacrity with which, in some former ages, they sacrificed all their material and intellectual interests to what they believed to be right," he finds it impossible to deny that we have lost something in our progress.

His book will no doubt be extensively read. The wealth of its contents and the singular grace of its style, always flowing, often picturesque, sometimes burning with suppressed eloquence, will ensure a multitude of admirers. We hope they will. Even they who dread the tendency of the speculations it encourages, must acknowledge the candor with which they are advanced, and must rejoice in the charity with which they are associated. Since the spirit of rationalism is everywhere, and the speculations it excites besiege all minds, it must be a cause of congratulation that the writer who sets them forth most ably also sets them forth most modestly, and, while commending the principles which disorganize church and state, does it in a way to confirm every vital bond of social life.

OUR MUTUAL FRIEND.*

"OUR MUTUAL FRIEND" is, to our perception, the poorest of Mr. Dickens's works. And it is poor with the poverty not of momentary embarrassment, but of permanent exhaustion. It is wanting in inspiration. For the last ten years it has seemed to us that Mr. Dickens has been unmistakably forcing himself. "Bleak House" was forced; "Little Dorrit" was labored; the present work is dug out as with a spade and pickaxe. Of course—to anticipate the usual argument—who but Dickens could have written it? Who, indeed? Who else would have established a lady in business in a novel on the admirably solid basis of her always putting on gloves and tying a handkerchief round her head in moments of grief, and of her habitually addressing her family with "Peace! hold!" It is needless to say that Mrs. Reginald Wilfer is first and last the occasion of considerable true humor. When, after conducting her daughter to Mrs. Boffin's carriage, in sight of all the envious neighbors, she is described as enjoying her triumph during the

* "Our Mutual Friend. By Charles Dickens." New York: Harper Brothers. 1865.

next quarter of an hour by airing herself on the door-step "in a kind of splendidly serene trance," we laugh with as uncritical a laugh as could be desired of us. We pay the same tribute to her assertions, as she narrates the glories of the society she enjoyed at her father's table, that she has known as many as three copper-plate engravers exchanging the most exquisite sallies and retorts there at one time. But when to these we have added a dozen more happy examples of the humor which was exhaled from every line of Mr. Dickens's earlier writings, we shall have closed the list of the merits of the work before us. To say that the conduct of the story, with all its complications, betrays a long-practised hand, is to pay no compliment worthy the author. If this were, indeed, a compliment, we should be inclined to carry it further, and congratulate him on his success in what we should call the manufacture of fiction; for in so doing we should express a feeling that has attended us throughout the book. Seldom, we reflected, had we read a book so intensely *written*, so little seen, known, or felt.

In all Mr. Dickens's works the fantastic has been his great resource; and while his fancy was lively and vigorous it accomplished great things. But the fantastic, when the fancy is dead, is a very poor business. The movement of Mr. Dickens's fancy in Mrs. Wilfer and Mr. Boffin and Lady Tippins, and the Lammles and Miss Wren, and even in Eugene Wrayburn, is, to our mind, a movement lifeless, forced, mechanical. It is the letter of his old humor without the spirit. It is hardly too much to say that every character here put before us is a mere bundle of eccentricities, animated by no principle of nature whatever. In former days there reigned in Mr. Dickens's extravagances a comparative consistency; they were exaggerated statements of types that really existed. We had, perhaps, never known a Newman Noggs, nor a Pecksniff, nor a Micawber; but we had known persons of whom these figures were but the strictly logical consummation. But among the grotesque creatures who occupy the pages before us, there is not one whom we can refer to as an existing type. In all Mr. Dickens's stories, indeed, the reader has been called upon, and has willingly consented, to accept a certain number of figures or creatures of pure fancy, for this was the author's poetry. He was, moreover, always repaid for his concession by a peculiar beauty or power in these exceptional characters. But he is now expected to make the same concession with a very inadequate reward. What do we get in return for accepting Miss Jenny Wren as a possible person? This young lady is the type of a certain class of characters of which Mr. Dickens has made a specialty, and with which he has been accustomed to draw alternate smiles and tears, according as he pressed one spring or another. But this is very cheap merriment and very cheap pathos. Miss Jenny Wren is a poor little dwarf, afflicted, as she constantly reiterates, with a "bad back" and "queer legs," who makes doll's dresses, and is for ever pricking at those with whom she converses, in the air, with her needle, and assuring them that she knows their "tricks and their manners." Like all Mr. Dickens's pathetic characters, she is a little monster; she is deformed, unhealthy, unnatural; she belongs to the troop of hunchbacks, imbeciles, and precocious children who have carried on the sentimental business in all Mr. Dickens's novels; the little Nells, the Smikes, the Paul Dombey.

Mr. Dickens goes as far out of the way for his wicked people as he does for his good ones. Rogue Riderhood, indeed, in the present story, is villanous with a sufficiently natural villany; he belongs to that quarter of society in which the author is most at his ease. But was there ever such wickedness as that of the Lammles and Mr. Flegby? Not that people have not been as mischievous as they; but was any one ever mischievous in that singular fashion? Did a couple of elegant swindlers ever take such particular pains to be aggressively inhuman?—for we can find no other word for the gratuitous distortions to which they are subjected. The word *humanity* strikes us as strangely discordant, in the midst of these pages; for, let us boldly declare it, there is no humanity here. Humanity is nearer home than the Boffins, and the Lammles, and the Wilfers, and the Veneerings. It is in what men have in common with each other, and not in what they have in distinction. The people just named have nothing in common with each other, except the fact that they have nothing in common with mankind at large. What a world were this world if the world of "Our Mutual Friend" were an honest reflection of it! But a community of eccentrics is impossible. Rules alone are consistent with each other; exceptions are inconsistent. Society is maintained by natural sense and natural feeling. We cannot conceive a society in which these principles are not in some manner represented. Where in these pages are the depositories of that intelligence without which the movement of life would cease? Who represents nature? Accepting half of Mr. Dickens's persons as intentionally grotesque, where are those exemplars of

sound humanity who should afford us the proper measure of their companions' variations? We ought not, in justice to the author, to seek them among his weaker—that is, his mere conventional—characters; in John Harmon, Lizzie Hexam, or Mortimer Lightwood; but we assuredly cannot find them among his stronger—that is, his artificial creations. Suppose we take Eugene Wrayburn and Bradley Headstone. They occupy a halfway position between the habitual probable of nature and the habitual impossible of Mr. Dickens. A large portion of the story rests upon the enmity borne by Headstone to Wrayburn, both being in love with the same woman. Wrayburn is a gentleman, and Headstone is one of the people. Wrayburn is well-bred, careless, elegant, sceptical, and idle; Headstone is a high-tempered, hard-working, ambitious young schoolmaster. There lay in the opposition of these two characters a very good story. But the prime requisite was that they should be characters: Mr. Dickens, according to his usual plan, has made them simply figures, and between them the story that was to be, the story that should have been, has evaporated. Wrayburn lounges about with his hands in his pockets, smoking a cigar, and talking nonsense. Headstone strides about, clenching his fists and biting his lips and grasping his stick. There is one scene in which Wrayburn chaffs the schoolmaster with easy insolence, while the latter writhes impotently under his well-bred sarcasm. This scene is very clever, but it is very insufficient. If the majority of readers were not so very timid in the use of words we should call it vulgar. By this we do not mean to indicate the conventional impropriety of two gentlemen exchanging lively personalities; we mean to emphasize the essentially small character of these personalities. In other words, the moment, dramatically, is great, while the author's conception is weak. The friction of two *men*, of two characters, of two passions, produces stronger sparks than Wrayburn's boyish repartees and Headstone's melodramatic commonplaces. Such scenes as this are useful in fixing the limits of Mr. Dickens's insight. Insight is, perhaps, too strong a word; for we are convinced that it is one of the chief conditions of his genius not to see beneath the surface of things. If we might hazard a definition of his literary character, we should, accordingly, call him the greatest of superficial novelists. We are aware that this definition confines him to an inferior rank in the department of letters which he adorns; but we accept this consequence of our proposition. It were, in our opinion, an offence against humanity to place Mr. Dickens among the greatest novelists. For, to repeat what we have already intimated, he has created nothing but figure. He has added nothing to our understanding of human character. He is master of but two alternatives: he reconciles us to what is commonplace, and he reconciles us to what is odd. The value of the former service is questionable; and the manner in which Mr. Dickens performs it sometimes conveys a certain impression of charlatanry. The value of the latter service is incontestable, and here Mr. Dickens is an honest, an admirable artist. But what is the condition of the truly great novelist? For him there are no alternatives, for him there are no oddities, for him there is nothing outside of humanity. He cannot shirk it; it imposes itself upon him. For him alone, therefore, there is a true and a false; for him alone it is possible to be right, because it is possible to be wrong. Mr. Dickens is a great observer and a great humorist, but he is nothing of a philosopher. Some people may hereupon say, so much the better; we say, so much the worse. For a novelist very soon has need of a little philosophy. In treating of Micawber, and Boffin, and Pickwick, *et hoc genus omne*, he can, indeed, dispense with it, for this—we say it with all deference—is not serious writing. But when he comes to tell the story of a passion, a story like that of Headstone and Wrayburn, he becomes a moralist as well as an artist. He must know *man* as well as *men*, and to know man is to be a philosopher. The writer who knows men alone, if he have Mr. Dickens's humor and fancy, will give us figures and pictures for which we cannot be too grateful, for he will enlarge our knowledge of the world. But when he introduces men and women whose interest is preconceived to lie not in the poverty, the weakness, the drollery of their natures, but in their complete and unconscious subjection to ordinary and healthy human emotions, all his humor, all his fancy, will avail him nothing if, out of the fulness of his sympathy, he is unable to prosecute those generalizations in which alone consists the real greatness of a work of art. This may sound like very subtle talk about a very simple matter; it is rather very simple talk about a very subtle matter. A story based upon those elementary passions in which alone we seek the true and final manifestation of character must be told in a spirit of intellectual superiority to those passions. That is, the author must understand what he is talking about. The perusal of a story so told is one of the most elevating experiences within the reach of the human mind. The perusal of a story which is not so told is infinitely depressing and unprofitable.

THE CYCLOPEDIA OF BIOGRAPHY.*

THE new edition of this work opens with an "Advertisement"—in lieu of a preface—claiming for it "compactness," "comprehensiveness," and a "combination of accuracy and brevity," and expressing the belief "that the volume, as now published, embodies nearly all that will be looked for" in a manual of this description. A critical glance over it convinces us that these claims are not well-founded.

As regards the first and last of these qualities, our limited space not allowing us to quote largely, we must refer our reader to such articles as "Bayard," "Bayle," "Burger," "Godwin, Wm.," or "Rabelais," consuming full columns, written in a style not sufficiently compact for a cyclopedia in ten volumes, and in their whole tenor strikingly contrasting with such other productions as the following, which we give in full:

"Catullus, Caius Valerius, an elegant but licentious Roman poet. D. 40 B.C."

"Herodotus, called by Cicero the 'Father of History,' was b. at Halicarnassus, in Caria, 484 B.C., and is the most ancient of the Greek historians whose works are extant."

"Richard I., King of England, surnamed Cœur de Lion, was b. in 1157, and ascended the throne on the death of his father, Henry II., in 1189. D. 1199."

"Romulus, the founder of Rome, and brother of Remus, was the son of Rhea Sylvia, daughter of Numitor, King of Alba. D. 715 B.C." Who would suppose, on reading this last paragraph, that it was a fable exploded by Niebuhr?

These few biographies, so eminently distinguished by "brevity," will also convey to our reader a slight idea of what we have to understand by "comprehensiveness." On this point, however, we can give more exact information without wasting too much space. Our cyclopedia is comprehensive enough to give the lives of such men of genius as Aromatri, Arpino, Arriazzi, Arrighetti, Arrighetto, Arrighetti, Arsilla, and Artalis, and of such monarchs as Augustulus, Charles the Simple, Dagobert, Galerius, Gratian, Juba, and Numerian. On the other hand, it is too compact and brief to mention Troy, the Iliad, or the Odyssey, in "Homer;" the wars against the Greeks, the Scythians, and Babylon, in "Darius;" the Peloponnesian war, in "Thucydides;" tyranny or cruelty in "Dionysius;" the Thirty Years' War in "Ferdinand II.;" the wars against Napoleon in "Frederic William III.," or in "Schwartzenberg;" the deposition and banishment of Gustavus IV. in the life of this king; or Brescia or Italy, in "Haynau." It intentionally and consistently omits all the biblical names, but with them also all the poet-biblical Jewish Abrahams, Davids, Samuels, and Solomons, not excepting the greatest mediæval philosophers, poets, or scholars of that nation. Of monarchs, it gives all the Artaxerxes, but no Xerxes; all the German Conrads, but none of the Othos, Maximilians, or Leopolds; all the English Henries, but neither William the Conqueror nor William of Orange; all the French Charleses, but none of the Philips, not excepting Philip Augustus; a number of Spanish Alphonsos, but no Philip, not even the Second; all the Turkish Achmeets, but no Mohammed (Sultan), Solyman, or Selim; no Attalus, Herod, Ptolemy, or Seleucus; no Stephen, Ladislas, Vladimir, Ivan, Waldemar, Matthias, or Pedro; nor Attila, Genserich, Theodorice, Rurik, Piast, or Arpad. It has only one Darius, one Demosthenes, and one Pompey; no Timoleon, no Metellus, no Masaniello, no Savonarola, no Sixtus, and but one Clement; no Hunniades, no Zrinyi, no Aureng-Zebe, no Tippoo-Saib, no Chlopicki, no Niemcewicz, no Pushkin, no Petöfi. The whole letter X, though including Xavier, Xenocrates, Xenophon, and Ximenes, fills only half a page, owing, in part, to what is styled "compactness," and in part to the omission of Xanthippus, Xerxes, etc. Less space is devoted to Robespierre than to Rob Roy; to John Huss than to Giles Hussey; to Kant than to Kean; to Spinoza than to Spontini; to Alexander Hamilton than to Aaron Burr; to George Washington than to Benedict Arnold.

Now for "accuracy." Frederic the Great is given as one of the Frederic Williams. The Pole Jablonowski receives the German title *von*. We find a Charles VIII. Emperor of Germany. Prince Poniatowski, who was drowned at the close of the battle of Leipzig, is made to participate in the campaign of the following year, 1814. King Sobieski is called the Great. The French *Las Cases* is entered as *Las Cases*; Thomas Münzer as Muncer; Malachowski as Malackowski; Priessnitz as Pressnitz; De Kalb, Pulaski, Guyon, and Radetzky without Christian names. Hufeland is designated as "a Prussian counsellor of state, who was also an eminent physician." Field-marshal Schwarzenberg is entered in the main work under "Schwartzenberg;"

* "The Cyclopædia of Biography: A Record of the Lives of Eminent Men. By Parke Godwin." New Edition. With a Supplement, brought down to the Present Time. By George Sheppard. New York: Hurd & Houghton. 1866.

Prince Felix, in the supplement, once under "Schwartzenberg," receiving a biography of upward of twenty lines, and again under "Von Schwartzenberg," where he is finished in seven, but receives the unmerited honor of a succession, as prime minister, to Prince Metternich. Two other Germans appear in the supplement under "Von," which is quite novel, and the most renowned of Polish poets, Mickiewicz, is introduced, in the same, in this fine English form, Mitzkiewitch; which is like giving "Matzzenee" for "Mazini," and "Koshshoot" for "Kossuth." But let us return to the main part: The few lines on Maimonides offer us a fine specimen of accuracy: "1131," instead of "1135," is given as the year of his birth; his "*Mishneh Torah*" is called "*Mischna Terah*;" his "Shemonah Perakim," "Peruschim," and his great philosophical work "Moreh" is designated as "an explanation of obscure places in Scripture." "Blucher, Gebard Lebrecht, Prince von," stands for "Blücher, Gebhardt Leberecht, Prince of Wahlstadt." George Washington is stated to have been born in Fairfax instead of Westmoreland county, Va. Similar mistakes abound in the greatest possible profusion. Misprints are equally numerous.

The way foreign names are treated throughout is highly amusing. Bürger, Göttingen, and Krüdener are given without, Modlin and Gruber with, marks above the vowels. The Russian final syllable *vitch*, precisely corresponding to our *son* in Robertson, Johnson, etc., appears correctly in the surname of Nicholas, as *vitch* in that of Peter, as *vitz* in that of Lomonosoff, and as *vitch* in Paskiewitch, and again and again in all these forms. (Suppose a foreigner should spell our names thus: Jeffersohn, Madisonn, Jacksonne, Johnsonn!) The Frenchman Maitly's Christian name is John Baptist; Say's, Jean Baptiste; Colbert's, John Baptist; Rousseau's, Jean Baptiste; the Spaniard Munoz's, John Baptist; the Italian Casanova's, Jean Baptiste. Henry and Henri, Ferdinand and Fernando, and twenty other names, alternate in the same way. Some Germans offer a peculiarly interesting mixture of English and Teutonic Christian names, thus: Schadow, Johann Geoffroy; Schiller, John Christopher Frederic; Schlegel, August Wilhelm; Schleiermacher, Frederic Ernest Daniel; Schopenhauer, Johanna; Schubert, Francis; Schumacher, Heinrich Christian. So also in the supplement: Schlosser, Friedrich Christoph, and next to him, Schneider, John Christian Frederick.

No references are given. Marcus Aurelius can be found only under "Antoninus," and he who looks for Hasdrubal, or Hamilcar, must know that our book has these names without an H, though it knows only the form Hannibal.

Living persons are excluded—except Agassiz!

All we can say in praise of the book is that it is neatly printed and bound.

A SUMMER IN SKYE.*

WE do not think that our hopes of entertainment in opening this book were unreasonable, and we are obliged to summon all the well-known sweetness of the critical temperament to qualify the indignation which the inhospitable disappointment of our hopes has roused. Many years ago we sat down at a florid feast of verse provided by Mr. Smith, and though we have since suspected that the poetic refreshment offered was something like the fare of those

— "great hotels

Where they shift plates and let ye live on smells,"

still we had a lingering belief that there was some veritable relish of poetry in all that glitter of table service; and it was with this conviction in our mind that we turned willingly to a volume of prose by the same author. But summer days are long, in Skye, and they are tedious in the book which Mr. Smith has made about them. In fact, the book is very curiously dull. As you lapse from depth to depth along its drowsy pages, you wake suddenly at times to a sense of the text, and, as in listening to a heavy sermon, remain vexed with a harrowing doubt whether you have or have not been asleep; and again you are brought to grief at times by some passage putting a commonplace severely at you, as when the bore to whom you have been listening long in a pleasant unconsciousness appalls you by asking a question which has to be answered yes or no. Mr. Smith's prose style is that of the editorials in the second-rate English journals, and is all the feebler for a certain air of hysterical jauntiness: it is awkwardly tautological and not always grammatical. With him, those who sell bad gin are "venders of deleterious alcohol;" persons indifferent to foul smells are "gentlemen of obtuse olfactory nerve;" a boy who jeers the magistrates "gives vent to an irreverent observation;" all which seems to us poor fooling, and of but a stale flavor.

Mr. Smith's manner, especially in treating of historical personages and places, is the light and elegant manner of Thackeray, as it may be learned

* "A Summer in Skye. By Alexander Smith." Boston: Ticknor & Fields. 1865

from Mr. George Augustus Sala. He thus comes to wear the fascinating appearance of knowing familiarly everything about everything he mentions, and of keeping back vast stores of detail, while he produces picturesque bits of knowledge; he has the grace of one who has studied the bearing of a gentleman as it is found reflected in a gent. One likes to know that Pope saw Dryden sitting in the easy chair, near the fire, at Will's Coffee-house, and that Scott met Burns at Adam Ferguson's. It is pleasant to know that Dr. Johnson and Flora Macdonald met, with other familiar talk about Bozzy, and Prince Charles, and history in general. Do we not know this genteel air? Many a page of Mr. Smith's book is like a page in "Henry Esmond" or "The Four Georges," seen through the "Temple Bar" on the cover of Mr. Sala's magazine. Our author is very much better when purely and simply Mr. Smith, though he is bad enough then, and we think has hardly his equal for destroying all raciness and character in anecdote, for taking the life out of a landscape, for putting the sea out of countenance, and the hills to confusion. We are not ready to say just how he accomplishes this, but it seems to us that it comes about through too much metaphor, and again through too much violence of epigram, with which, perhaps, the author seeks to correct his symbolic language. Indeed, Mr. Smith seems to have passed most of his summer in guessing nature's conundrums, and to have put down the shrewd result of his guesses, in order that everybody may hereafter know what everything is like in the heavens and on the earth. His whole book may thus be resolved into its elements of questions and answers. What is a bee, with his head stuck into a rose, and fidgeting with its leaves, like? A tailor tired of sitting still. There is no end to quickness of this sort, relieved, certainly, by occasional passages of laborious humor, inspired by such incidents as travelling all day with an idle old horse:

"At parting I waved the animal, sullen and unbeloved, my last farewell; and wished that no green paddock should receive him in his old age, but that his ill-natured flesh should be devoured by the hounds, that leather should be made of his beudgelled hide, and hoped that, considering its toughness, of it should the boots and shoes of a poor man's children be manufactured."

We can imagine a man's saying something like this in careless talk, and being rather ashamed of it afterwards; but is it not somewhat desolating to find such drollery in print? On the whole, we believe we like the conundrums the best, though they keep us from knowing much of Skye or its people.

The book opens with one of its poorest chapters, which concerns Edinburgh and her renown for beauty, literature, and law; and then it takes you through Stirling and Oban to Skye. There is some anecdote of second-sight, which is agreeable, and there is talk about Ossian which one always likes to read. Mr. Smith believes in the genuineness of the Gaelic MSS. of Macpherson, but thinks that Macpherson's translation fails of justice to the original, and gives some rhythmic versions which are rather harder reading than even Macpherson's. On one occasion our author "drops into poetry" of his own, and makes at least a fine ballad of an old story of remote local feud and fray, which he calls "Danschiach." But where he has to do with people and scenes of this generation, his touch is commonly so feeble and imperfect that the concluding chapters, which are good and strong, seem almost the work of another hand. About the best thing in the whole book is the account of bargaining and fighting at an Irish sheep mart; and in the chapter entitled "The Smoking Parliament" there is very pleasant and excellent discourse upon certain points of Scottish character. Concerning Skye itself, and the peculiar traits of its wild inhabitants and wild scenery, the author tries hard to tell us something in vain. Little remains to his reader after all but a sense that it has been very rainy, and that there were red-haired, bare-legged girls, turf huts, shaggy ponies, prodigious hills, whiskey and sea everywhere. Of course, this happens in spite of considerable information actually set down in the book. But he has so viciously subjectivized the whole matter of his book that it comes to be at last not Mr. Smith's "Summer in Skye" but a Skye Summer in Mr. Smith.

THE WELSH IN THE UNITED STATES.*

REV. SAMUEL ROBERTS has attracted considerable attention among the Welsh people for the last forty years. Some years ago he bought a large tract of land in Tennessee, with the intention of founding a Welsh settlement there; but the intense antipathy of his countrymen to slavery has rendered the enterprise thus far a total failure. He was violently attacked in the Welsh publications for seeking to induce his countrymen to settle in a slave State; and, as he had written much in his native land against

slavery, he was charged with being recreant to the cause of human liberty. About the beginning of the late war he published several articles in the newspapers, condemning the spirit of the North, while not justifying the action of the South. These raised a further storm of indignation against him, and he capped the climax by publishing in the present volume a long essay on the rebellion, reiterating his former opinions, and making himself the "best-abused" Welshman of the present generation.

Mr. Roberts is emphatically a man of "one idea," and that is *peace*. In his view everything is made subordinate to this. He has a perfect horror of war, and believes there is no evil so great as to justify a resort to arms for its correction. Remembering this, his conduct becomes intelligible; otherwise it is full of absurdities and inconsistencies. Though he has much to say in this volume, as well as in all his other writings, about gentleness and meekness and Christian love, as the correctives that are to reform the world, we fail to discover much of that spirit in his own writings. On the contrary, he is one of the most bitter and vindictive controversialists we have ever read. He is anything but meek in his treatment of those who attack him.

We did not take up his book with the intention of reviewing it, but of saying a few words about the state of Welsh literature in the United States.

Welsh-American publications are neither large in number nor varied in character. But this, perhaps, should not be wondered at, considering that the people themselves are not very numerous. There is at present but one weekly newspaper published in the language, and but three monthlies—all of the latter being denominational. Indeed, all Welsh publications, with but few exceptions, are of a religious character. You will in vain look among this people for sceptical works, though they have not escaped the controversies arising out of the modern discoveries of geology. This is true of Welsh books in the mother country as well as here. We notice, also, the almost total absence of works of fiction. There have been a few novels published, but the Welsh atmosphere does not seem suited for their production, and especially not for their circulation, as the people generally have a decided aversion to books of that class, regarding them as having an immoral tendency.

Attempts have been made at various times to establish the more solid serials, but they have all proved failures thus far. The one that came nearest being a success was a quarterly called "Y Fraethodydd" ("The Essayist"), which was a reprint, with the addition of an American department. Though a publication of acknowledged ability, it failed for want of patronage.

Quite a number of really valuable books have been issued at different times, but they have been mostly reprints. Among these may be mentioned Gurnal's "Christian in full Armor," Hughes's "Commentary on the New Testament," and Charles's "Scripture Dictionary," a large and learned work. The list of original Welsh-American books is so meagre as to be hardly worth mentioning. The most notable, perhaps, of original works, is a volume published by the Rev. W. Rowlands, D.D., of Utica, N. Y., on the "Parable of the Prodigal Son." Ostensibly a commentary on that beautiful parable of our Lord, it is really a body of Calvinistic divinity; and the career of that wayward young man is made use of to expound the whole round of theological dogmas, from original sin to eternal salvation. This is, we think, the ablest Welsh-American book yet issued, and will compare favorably with English books of the same class. We understand that Dr. Rowlands is soon to issue another volume, but have not heard upon what subject.

Any mention of Welsh literature would be incomplete without saying something about poetry. We presume a large majority of the Welsh people believe their poetry excels that of every other nation. While this opinion arises from a species of national vanity, it is, nevertheless, true that the language contains much good poetry, though but little of it is of Welsh-American origin. It is frequently objected to the quality of Welsh poetry, by those unfamiliar with the language, that if it were really good there would be more of it translated into English. In fact, however, this objection has no force, as any one understanding the peculiar character of Welsh metres will readily admit. Most of their good poetry has been written in what are called "Mesuran Caethion," and is, therefore, untranslatable. The adherence to these old metres has done incalculable mischief in fettering the free expression of thought; but we are glad to see of late years a disposition to break through these restraints, and hope, before long, to see Welsh poetry thoroughly emancipated. A few have ventured to write in blank verse, but it will take some time to bring the generality of Welsh people to look with favor upon it, so entirely different is it from what they have been accustomed to read.

Welsh-Americans possess some very striking peculiarities, and those peculiarities furnish us with an explanation why there are so few original

* "Pregethan a Darlithian (Sermons and Essays). By Samuel Roberts."

works produced among them in this country. They are intensely *Welsh*. While there is no class of adopted citizens more thoroughly patriotic and American in their feelings, there are none more wedded to the traditions and customs of their native land. This feeling, however, does not include any love of a foreign government. The British Government is not *their* government, and they have no attachment for it. Hence, there is nothing to interfere with the most earnest loyalty on their part to the Government of the United States. But in literary, religious, and social matters it is quite different. They have these in their own right in their native land, and consider them as national properties to be loved and cherished wherever they may go. Added to these is their love for their language. The reverence which they feel for the old "Gymraeg" is something akin to worship; and they are actively engaged in the hopeless task of making the dear old tongue perpetual upon the American Continent.

Of course, this is all wrong; and the sooner the attempt is given up, the better it will be for themselves, as well as for their adopted country. Those coming here to live should adapt themselves to the customs and institutions and language of the country. That the contrary conduct is not prompted by any hostility to our people does not make the matter practically any better. We trust that our Welsh fellow-citizens will see the folly of attempting to plant transatlantic ideas and customs on this side of the water.

The Freedmen's Book. By L. Maria Child. (Ticknor & Fields, Boston.)—We know of no one so well qualified as Mrs. Child to address the freed people intelligibly and to their profit. Her whole life has been devoted to their redemption; her sympathy with their past sufferings, her understanding of their present condition, is complete; and her style is as simple, unaffected, and perspicuous as she is by nature frank and democratic, and gifted with uncommon common sense. In carrying out her novel idea, she has prepared a volume to which she herself has contributed chiefly biographical sketches of distinguished colored men and women, such as Banneker, Toussaint L'Ouverture, Douglass, and Phillis Wheatley. The humane poetry of Cowper, Montgomery, Whittier, and Pierpont is interspersed with that of colored authors; and there is a great variety of selections from the writings and sayings of well-known abolitionists. Short paragraphs containing noble sentiments or valuable information fill the interstices of the longer articles. The whole is intended to be read by the more intelligent freedmen to their brethren, in the hope that they all "will derive fresh strength and courage from this true record of what colored men have accomplished under great disadvantages." Mrs. Child receives no compensation for her part in this enterprise, and the book is accordingly sold at its bare cost. It will be circulated as widely as possible, and the surplus receipts, if any, will be turned over to the freedmen's aid associations.

Christian Companionship for Retired Hours. (Alexander Strahan, London and New York. 1865.)—Possibly, if one should take up this book and notice how neat and pretty and well printed it is, and then put it down again without reading a word, it would be better than if he should attempt to read it carefully. For any person with an imaginative turn of mind might, it would seem, conclude from the outside of the volume that the contents were something better than they are. And if the writer, who, for the sake of modesty no doubt, withholds his name, had known in what fine clothes he was to go before the world, it is very possible he would have made himself more worthy of esteem. The book is thin and unsubstantial to the last degree. And, what is worse, its chapters are dilutions or perversions of the text of Scripture, in comparison with which they seem even more feeble than they really are. There are few persons who could not better spend their "retired hours" in solitude than in such "companionship" as this.

Mitchell's New Reference Atlas. For the use of Colleges, Libraries, Families, and Counting-Houses. (E. H. Butler & Co., Philadelphia.)—We have here, printed on thick paper, one map to each leaf, and bound substantially, a combination of the two well-known school atlases of Mr. S. Augustus Mitchell, ancient and modern. The plates are identical in this and in the hitherto separate editions. They are characterized by simplicity and distinctness, in accordance with the scale on which they are drawn and the requirements of the pupils in our public schools. Hence there is an absence of detail, especially in representing the physical features of the several portions of the globe, and an index to names of places, etc., is rendered superfluous. For all ordinary purposes this atlas will be found convenient and trustworthy, and the classical addition will be welcome to many. There are the usual statistical tables at the end.

Meditations. By Henry Alford, Dean of Canterbury. (Alexander Strahan, London and New York. 1865.)—What has been attempted in this book the writer tells us in his preface: "I have taken some of the great familiar truths of our religious belief or life, and, stripping them of accidents and conventionalities, have endeavored to lay them forth in their reality, face to face with our ordinary thoughts and habits." But he seems to have chosen truths which are familiar rather to the lips than the life of men, and it is not strange that, as he says, "the first result of this procedure naturally has been that the two appear incompatible with each other." And the final result, namely, the application of these truths to everyday affairs, seems far-fetched and unnatural. Would it not be better to choose themes not quite so remote from our experience as "Advent" and "Creation," and then to reconcile the two would be less difficult? But the Dean mistakes

if he imagines that these sermons will be popular in any sense, even the best. They have too little blood in them for that. They are as cold as ice. They are very chaste and elegant productions, and somewhat florid withal; but "the flowers seem like made flowers" and the elegance is at the expense of freshness and originality. Still the writer rises with his subject, and the sermons on "Providence," with which the volume closes, are much better than the rest. They teach in quite a simple way that God is always present when our hearts are open to receive him; that we need not wait for great events, for "special providences," to reveal him. The book is printed very handsomely.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

- THE YOUNG MAN'S FRIEND. By Daniel C. Eddy, D.D. Graves & Young, Boston.
 THE EARL'S SECRET. By Miss Pardoe. T. B. Peterson & Co., Philadelphia.
 SUN-RAYS FROM FAIR AND CLOUDY SKIES. By Cousin Carrie. D. Appleton & Co., New York.
 LIFE AND TIMES OF JOSEPH WARREN. By Richard Frothingham. Little, Brown & Co., Boston.
 LITTLE FOXES. By Christopher Crowfield.—PATRIOT BOYS AND PRISON PICTURES. By Edmund Kirke. Ticknor & Fields, Boston.
 WORK AND WIN. By Oliver Optic. Lee & Shepard, Boston.
 THE LETTERS OF WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART. (1769-1791.) Translated from the Collection of Ludwig Nohl, by Lady Wallace. Two volumes. Hurd & Houghton, New York.
 MELODIES AND MADRIGALS. Mostly from the Old English Poets. Edited by Richard Henry Stoddard. Bunce & Huntington, New York.
 RECORD OF THE FEDERAL DEAD. Buried from Libby, Belle Isle, Danville, and Camp Lawton Prisons, and at City Point, and in the Field before Petersburg and Richmond. Philadelphia: by the United States Christian Commission.
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THE opera has closed after a very successful season. Nineteen operas have been performed, and fifty-six representations have been given in New York, besides twelve in Brooklyn. Two new operas were brought out, and had a very good run. The regrettable death of Rovere, just at the end of the season, has thrown a little shadow over the success. His death, and the defection of Marra will render it almost impossible to perform "Crispino" again, so that in the spring season we shall have some other piece as a substitute for it.

During the last two weeks several fine orchestral concerts have been given, which demand some consideration from us.

First in order is the Second Symphonie-Soirée of Theodore Thomas, which took place at Irving Hall on December 2. The programme included the symphony of Schumann, No. 1, B flat major, Op. 38, the concerto for piano by Liszt, No. 1, E flat, the Leonora overture, No. 3, of Beethoven, two Italian vocal pieces, and the scherzo in B minor, Op. 20, of Chopin.

The orchestral works were all very finely presented. The orchestra was smaller than Mr. Thomas had expected to have, as it had to be made of such musicians as are honorable enough to stand to their engagements, and are not involved in the strike of the Musicians' Protective Union. What was wanting in numbers was made up in carefulness of execution. The leading players are the best in the city, and to our mind Mr. Thomas is the most admirable conductor we have. His perception of musical form and color is very exact, and, being gifted with a fine feeling, he infuses a spirit into his whole orchestra which makes it bend under his baton as though it were one multiple instrument on which he played. The symphony performed was the first attempt of Schumann in that direction. He had previously devoted himself almost exclusively to the piano, which is not always the best school for an orchestral composer. Great, then, was the astonishment of his critics, who had some reasons for predicting failure, when he gave out a work so broad in conception, and so carefully designed in detail. Though the first, it is better and more beautiful than the last, which was played a short time ago both in New York and Brooklyn. We notice that all of Schumann's symphonies appear better when considered in detached movements than when regarded as complete works. In this very one the subjects of the andante, the larghetto, and the allegro are all well treated individually, while the work as a whole is unequal and in some way deficient. Had Schumann written his symphonies as he did the compositions for the piano with which he began his career as a composer, and had he not felt forced to restrict himself to the traditional form of separate movements, he

would, we think, have given us works greater by far than these symphonies.

We can hardly use too strong terms to express our admiration of the manner in which Mr. Mills played Liszt's concerto. He has improved very greatly in the last year, both in execution and perception, and is now beyond comparison the most finished and perfect performer that we have in this country. The concerto is one of Liszt's earlier pieces, and was written twelve or thirteen years ago for his son-in-law, Hans von Bülow. In form it is a unit; the treatment varies according to the subject, and quick and slow movements are contrasted throughout, but it is not broken up into parts, and the story is carried through from beginning to end, rising into a final climax, without unnatural breaks. The germs of the present manner of Liszt can be detected in it, but in the treatment of melody it would plainly show that it belonged to his early period, even though we were ignorant of the date of its composition. It is highly dramatic and powerful. We do not wonder that it has never been performed here before, as it is enough to frighten the boldest pianist, so full is it of technical difficulty. The brilliancy of Mr. Mills's rendering gained him a shower of well-deserved plaudits.

Madame Fleury-Urbain is an agreeable singer, with a good and flexible voice, though she has some faults of execution. In spite of the unusual attractions of the opera, the attendance on this occasion was larger than at the first soirée. We hope that it will be still larger next time, for Mr. Thomas deserves to be encouraged in his undertaking to give us the best orchestral concerts of the winter, both in selection of pieces and in performance.

The second concert of the Brooklyn Philharmonic Society took place on Saturday evening, Dec. 9, on a stormy evening, but before a crowded house. The orchestral pieces performed were the fourth symphony in D minor of Schumann, the *overture caractéristique*, "Columbus," by George F. Bristow, and the "Tannhäuser" overture of Wagner. The vocalists were Misses Phillips and Bosio and Mr. Massimiliani. The symphony of Schumann was played tolerably well, but the overture to "Tannhäuser" was much better given. The manner in which Wagner's orchestral compositions are always received here, leads us to hope that some impresario will some time give us Wagner's operas, which, if well put on the stage, will not fail to show that American audiences are sufficiently educated to appreciate really good music, in spite of the influence of critics and musicians of the traditional school.

The marked feature of the evening was the performance of Mr. Bristow's overture; not so much on account of any very great excellence in the music as that the Philharmonic Society has at last recognized the fact that our own composers ought to be allowed an opportunity to show of what stuff they are made. Mr. Bristow is one of our most respectable composers, and "Columbus" is one of his best efforts, though not a work of eminent beauty or excellence. We should like to hear Albert's symphony on the same subject in contrast to it.

A concert was given on Thursday last for the Wallace Memorial Fund. It commenced with the funeral march from the "Sinfonia Eroica;" but, with this exception, all the pieces were by Wallace. Misses Kellogg and Phillips and Messrs. Castle and Campbell were all in excellent voice, and their songs were a great part of the performance. The orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Theodore Thomas, also played admirably. It is to be hoped that the amount realized from the concert will be enough to be a suitable offering from the city where Wallace once lived.

On Saturday night the New York Philharmonic Society gave their second concert with an entirely instrumental programme. The eighth symphony of Beethoven, Barzani's overture to "Prometheus," and Mendelssohn's music to the "Midsummer-Night's Dream" were the orchestral pieces. Mr. Jehin Prume, a nephew, we believe, of the great Prume, recently arrived from Europe, played one of Mendelssohn's concertos and a fantasia. His tones are good, but his manner of playing is very nervous and disagreeable.

On the same evening Mr. Alfred H. Pease gave his first orchestral concert, and on Sunday both the Arion and the Liederkreis societies gave concerts, with a very fine selection of pieces.

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FINANCIAL REVIEW.

NATION OFFICE, Monday Morning,
Dec. 18, 1865.

The importations of foreign goods at this port last week were again over six million dollars in gold—so far in excess of the exports of produce and merchandise that the specie export advanced to nearly \$1,500,000. Exchange advanced $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and, though bankers' bills are still quoted from $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. below the figure at which importers can remit specie in payment of their liabilities, it is obvious that a few more weeks of steadiness in the gold market will lead European manufacturers to press for settlements, and in that event a marked advance in exchange and a liberal export of bullion would be sure to follow. A large class among the importers believe in the ability of the Treasury Department to reduce the premium on gold, and are using their credits instead of paying their debts to the other side. As soon as these parties become convinced that no material decline in the price of specie is to be expected, they will enter the market as buyers, and it may be expected that exchange will rule at 109 $\frac{1}{4}$ to 110, and that specie will go out at the rate of over two millions per week.

Money is abundant at the financial centres, the rates being 6 to 7 per cent. for call loans. Mercantile paper is not easy of sale. Bankers and financial men are generally unwilling to let their money pass out of their control until Congress has determined the policy of Government. Fair paper is selling at 15 per cent. per annum. At the West, the announcement of the Secretary of the Treasury to the effect that contraction is to be his policy has already begun to bear fruit; three heavy failures at Chicago and one at St. Louis were announced last week. Private letters announce that further failures will ensue during the winter if money should become scarcer than it is. The grain speculators of the West have undertaken an enterprise which the entire banking capital of the United States would hardly suffice to carry to a successful issue; with the limited resources of the Western banks alone to rely upon, they can hardly hope to escape failure. They will succeed in making bread dear for the people of the seaboard States throughout this winter. But when the spring comes, let them look to themselves.

Produce paper is already selling at 20 per cent. in Wall Street. The pork crop promises to be both large and excellent in quality; a little increased activity in money would operate severely on the price.

The following table will show the course of prices during the week in the stock, money, gold, and exchange markets:

	Dec. 9.	Dec. 16.	Advance.	Decline.
United States Sixes of 1881.....	107 $\frac{1}{2}$	107 $\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	.....
5-20 Bonds, old.....	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	.....
5-20 Bonds of 1865.....	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	100	$\frac{1}{2}$	.....
10-40 Bonds.....	91 $\frac{1}{2}$	91 $\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	.....
7-30 Notes, second series.....	96 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	.....
New York Central.....	96 $\frac{1}{2}$	96 $\frac{1}{2}$	.....	$\frac{1}{2}$
Erie Railway.....	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	.....
Hudson River.....	108 $\frac{1}{2}$	109 $\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	.....
Reading Railroad.....	117 $\frac{1}{2}$	107 $\frac{1}{2}$ ex d.	.....	.....
Michigan Southern.....	74 $\frac{1}{2}$	75 $\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	.....
Cleveland and Pittsburg.....	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	92 $\frac{1}{2}$ ex d.	.....	.....
Chicago and North-Western.....	85 $\frac{1}{2}$	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	.....
" " Preferred.....	69 $\frac{1}{2}$	69 $\frac{1}{2}$	.....	$\frac{1}{2}$
Chicago and Rock Island.....	105 $\frac{1}{2}$	108	$\frac{1}{2}$	.....
P., Fort Wayne and Chicago.....	105 $\frac{1}{2}$	105 $\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	.....
Canton.....	45 $\frac{1}{2}$	45 $\frac{1}{2}$	.....	.....
Cumberland.....	43 $\frac{1}{2}$	44 $\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	.....
Mariposa.....	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	.....
American Gold.....	144 $\frac{1}{2}$	145 $\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	.....
Bankers' Bills on London.....	109 $\frac{1}{2}$	109 $\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	.....
Call Loans.....	7	7	.....	.....

The course of prices was uniformly upward last week, the only exceptions being New York Central, which was unfavorably influenced by the report elsewhere mentioned, and which sold down at one time to 95 $\frac{1}{2}$; and North-west Preferred, which was depressed to 91 $\frac{1}{2}$ by the official announcement of the passage of the fall dividend. Governments of all classes were in active demand. Five-Twenties, old, sold as high as 104, and 92 was at one time paid for Ten-Forties. Speculators in Governments affect to discredit altogether the Treasury Department scheme of contraction, and predict that, under the influence of the steadily expanding volume of national currency, Seven-Thirties will command a premium within sixty days. The issue of national bank paper last week was over \$4,000,000, swelling the aggregate issue to \$230,000,000. The largest advance among the railway shares was in Pittsburg, which is being manipulated with a view to corner the "shorts;" it sold on the closing of the books at 88, dividend off; rose rapidly to 93, and closed on Saturday at 92 $\frac{1}{2}$. As a 4 per cent. stock it is, of course, not worth any such price; but if the short interest be large enough, it may be forced ten or even twenty per cent. higher. Erie rose last week to 94, in spite of some receipts from abroad. This stock is also in good demand among the bears; it is generally lent "flat." Rock Island has been taken in hand by a new bull clique, and has been handled with considerable vigor; sales were made on Saturday at 108 $\frac{1}{2}$. The earnings of the road, as of most Western lines, show a decline as compared with those of last year. Among practical railway men a general decline in prices is looked for, on the ground that receipts are likely to fall off, and expenses to advance, or, at least, to remain stationary. It is commonly asserted that for four or five years to come the leading lines will not do as well for their shareholders as they did in 1864. But, on the other hand, the current of Wall Street speculation is unmistakably set toward higher prices, and all experience teaches that when speculation sets in a given direction, considerations of intrinsic value seldom avail to resist the tendency. In the first two months of 1858 a rampant bull speculation was witnessed in Wall Street, though the earnings of the railways were steadily declining, and many of the leading roads were gravitating toward bankruptcy.

Four railway dividends were announced last week: the Reading 10 per cent. in cash or stock, at the option of the stockholder; the Michigan Central and Illinois Central, 5 per cent. each; and the Fort Wayne, the usual quarterly dividend of 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Litigation can hardly fail to ensue from the terms of the Reading dividend. No limit of time is fixed by the company to the option granted to stockholders. The latter in part enjoy a perpetual "call" on the company for stock at par. In April, 1864, Reading sold at 160. It may sell at that figure again. Under the circumstances, stockholders who can afford to wait will probably decline to exercise their option, and will hold it over the head of the company for an indefinite period. An attempt is being made by the two Boards of Brokers to compel buyers of Reading on options to make their election, when they receive their due-bills, whether they will take their dividend in stock or cash. But it is clear that no man can be compelled to part with a valuable privilege against his will, and this pretension of the brokers will be overruled the moment it appears in the courts. The Michigan Central dividend is 1 per cent. less than usual.

The annual report of the New York Central Railroad has been pub-

lished. It shows the capital stock and debt to stand as follows, as compared with the corresponding period of last year:

	Oct., 1864.	Oct., 1865.	Increase.
Capital Stock.....	\$24,386,000	\$24,591,000	\$205,000
Debt.....	13,211,341	14,627,442	1,416,101

The cost of the property has thus been increased \$1,621,101 during the year. The earnings, gross and net, compare as follows for the past two years:

	1864.	1865.	Increase.	Decrease.
Gross Earnings.....	\$12,997,889	\$13,975,524	\$977,635	....
Expenses.....	9,346,184	10,882,358	1,536,174	....
Net Earnings.....	3,651,705	3,093,166	....	\$558,539

The report has discouraged many holders of the stock. In some quarters it is alleged that the figures have been "cooked," with a view to further applications to the Legislature for a removal of existing restrictions on passenger fares. But the advance in the cost of labor and materials within the past two years is so notorious that the request, unfavorable as it is, may still be quite honest. Everything has increased in price in this country except railway travelling; no wonder that the railways begin to show Flemish accounts.

Attention is directed to the extraordinary decline in Nevada—or Washoe—gold mining stocks. These stocks are, for the most part, held in the Atlantic States. During the war, when they paid their dividends in gold, many capitalists in New York, Boston, and Philadelphia put money in them as a hedge against the currency. According to the best information which could then be obtained, the mines were in a reliable productive condition, and no material diminution of their monthly dividends was to be apprehended. At that time Gould & Curry was about \$2,000 per foot in gold—it had sold at \$7,000 per foot—Yellow Jacket \$2,400, and so on. Three months ago the mines suspended dividends, and a decline began, which has gone on until Gould & Curry has been quoted at \$650, Yellow Jacket at \$250 per foot, and so forth with the other stocks. Considerable irritation is felt among holders in the Atlantic States, and the conduct of the California managers of the mines has been the subject of severe comment. A meeting of parties concerned in Washoe stocks will probably be called at an early day, with a view to the appointment of a commission to visit the property, and report whether or no the mines are a total swindle.

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Liabilities, - - - - -	77,901 52

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Temporary Loans	- - - - -	\$134,672 00
Real Estate	- - - - -	92,630 00
100 Shares Mer. Ex. Bank	- - - - -	10,000 00
Government Sec., value	- - - - -	5,000 00
Cash on hand	- - - - -	144,514 00
Interest due	- - - - -	18,042 34
Premiums due	- - - - -	3,085 58
PRESENT LIABILITIES	- - - - -	6,785 26
NET SURPLUS	- - - - -	\$15,946 92
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